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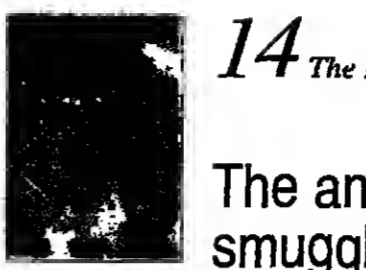
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Israeli-owned firms doing business with Iran

By STEVE RODAN

Over the last two years, Iran has been purchasing medical and hi-tech equipment through Israeli companies that have subsidiaries in Europe, industry sources said.

The equipment has been ordered by Iranian officials from companies including Salgad and Geneva, a company partially owned by Koor.

Industry sources said Salgad, a trading company, was established to conduct trade with Iranian companies in fields ranging from farming to communications.

Koor executives have denied conducting business with Iran.

But Ilan Traitel, director-general of the Beerseba-based Medent, said, "the Iranians are interested in everything that you can offer them."

"They are interested in agriculture, high-technology, and computers. They don't say no to anything," said Traitel, whose company supplies Iran with medical and laboratory equipment.

Traitel said Medent trades with Iran through a third country, which he would not name. He said that contacts with Iran were launched during last June's Akema trade show in Frankfurt.

he said. "These are the main equipment. And they pay."

Business circles close to Israel's trade with Iran estimate it at an annual nine-digit figure in US dollars.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials are probing the possibility of resolving Iran's claim that Israel owes it \$1 billion from oil dealings during the shah's rule, by having Russian companies purchase the debt. Israel would in turn buy Russian natural gas and invest in Russia.

Israel and Iran have quietly agreed to arbitration on the issue with the help of Germany. Israeli officials, particularly National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, hope that an agreement with Teheran could lead to the Islamic republic moderating its stance toward Israel.

Earlier this week, Israel Radio reported that a group of 16 agriculture experts secretly visited Iran and met with its deputy agriculture minister. Their visit came following Iranian approaches to European subsidiaries of Israeli companies in search of irrigation equipment and spare parts for tractors and combines bought in the 1970s.

Teheran Declaration slams Israel, Page 6

"We are offering them incubators, hot plate stirrers, laboratory ovens,"

Ministers fail to agree on pullback map

By JAY BUSHENSKY

A four-member ministerial team yesterday failed in its third attempt to map the parameters of the next IDF withdrawal in the West Bank, and therefore will be unable to present a consensus on this issue to the cabinet when it convenes on Sunday, a senior government source said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who heads the team, tended to agree with the approach advocated by Foreign Minister David Levy. They contend that the additional areas to be handed over to the Palestinian Authority should be specified to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright when she meets with Netanyahu in Paris next week.

Albright also will hold talks with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, probably in Geneva, after which Arafat and Netanyahu are due to meet in London.

"The team members differ over whether the territorial ingredients will suffice or whether there must be a precise recipe," the source said. The source said there are "several alternatives," but "no definitive map."

He also ruled out having a discussion at Sunday's cabinet meeting on the percentage of territory to be relinquished. He predicted the ministers will hear two or three different positions on the projected withdrawal.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon will argue that Netanyahu should inform Albright of the principles guiding the cabinet in its effort to demarcate the projected pullback, but not mention any specific areas.

Mordechai's spokesman denied a report on Israel Radio that he favors withdrawal from 13 percent of the territory in question.

"The defense establishment proposed several alternatives for the second redeployment, but none of them encompasses 13 percent of the area," he said.

Sharon advocates the creation of security zones parallel to the Jordan River and the Green Line, retention of the Judean Desert, and jurisdiction over all of the West Bank settlements and their access roads.

He will urge the cabinet to join him on a tour of the areas under discussion and will oppose their taking any decisions on redeployment before they see the area.

See PULLBACK, Page 12



Criticizing the critics
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks to reporters in Tel Aviv last night about a lengthy newspaper report critical of his wife Sara's behavior, as she looks on. In his brief comments, he called the report 'loathsome' and 'evil.' Story, Page 4.

Senior US official on eve of Indyk visit: Albright won't pressure PM

By HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON — In a diplomatic maneuver evidently intended to drive home the Clinton administration's abiding interest in the map-making process, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Martin Indyk is to arrive in Israel today.

He is expected to confer with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other members of the four-minister team during his stay. He also is likely to meet Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and senior Palestinian officials.

Indyk will join Secretary of State Madeleine Albright for her talks with Netanyahu and Arafat in Europe next week.

A senior administration official said yesterday that "while there is still a strongly felt sense of urgency" that Albright will continue to convey when she meets with Netanyahu and Arafat, "we don't know how long this is going to take. We have been at this effort for many months now."

The US expects to conduct "a more detailed discussion" with Netanyahu on his plans for the next phase of the redeployment, but does not believe he will come armed with maps, the official said.

"As to what he brings, that's his decision. We are not making any demands or placing any expectations on him."

Indyk will visit Syria and Jordan before joining Albright. However, a US official said that "this is not the start of a new initiative" to resuscitate the frozen Israeli-Syrian talks.

"It is unrealistic to expect that progress could be made on the Israeli-Syrian track until we've got the Israeli-Palestinian track moving again," the official said.

The US, meanwhile, has retreated from the position it laid out last month.

See ALBRIGHT, Page 12

Hanukka to light up NY skyline

By MARILYN HENRY

Forget the giant Lubavitch menorah in Central Park. The New York skyline will mark the first night of Hanukka with its most famous skyscraper, when the Empire State Building will be illuminated with blue and white lights.

The 102-story Empire State glows on various occasions. It's green and red each year at Christmas, and lavender on Gay Pride Weekend. The building was bathed in blue to celebrate the birthday of Frank "Ol' Blue Eyes" Sinatra and to mourn the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

But it never marked Hanukka until Mallory Blair Greitzer, a nine-year-old from the Upper East Side, wrote to the building to ask for the special lighting.

"They said, 'No way, Jose' — every religion gets one holiday, and we had Jewish Independence Day," she told *The New York Times*, referring to Yom Ha'atzma'ut. "But when I think of Jewish holidays, I think of Hanukka."

Mallory's father then wrote to Leonora Helmsley, whose company, Helmsley-Spear, manages the building. Helmsley, who has a wicked reputation as New York's "Queen of Mean," ordered that the building's lights be blue and white on the night of December 23. Mallory is expected to hit the light switch.

"She was touched when I showed her the correspondence from this young girl," Helmsley's publicist, Howard Rubenstein, told *The Times*. "Her feeling was that it is appropriate and good for New York interreligious understanding."

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Other results: Kosice 1, Bratislava 1, Sporting Lisbon 2, Warsaw 1, Paris St. Germain 1, Peskovo 1, Olympiakos Piraeus 2, Rosenborg Trondheim 1, Newcastle 2, Dynamo Kiev 1.

TERDAY TODAY AND...

NUKAH



Former prime minister MK Shimon Peres (left) meets with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo yesterday. (Reuters)

PA economy focus of Peres trip

CAIRO (Reuters) — Former prime minister MK Shimon Peres met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday to suggest ways to help the Palestinian economy.

The Nobel peace laureate in October launched the private Peres Center for Peace to promote peace through projects that foster economic opportunity.

"We are interested in seeing our Palestinian neighbors doing well economically, not only administratively. We have some ideas that I have introduced to the president and I hope we can work together in order to implement," Peres told reporters after the meeting.

"Peace moves on two legs: an economic leg and a political leg. While the political leg is basically in the hands of the government, the economic leg is open to be moved by different forces," he said.

Peres said he did not envision putting economic pressure on Israel's government, which he said international support for Palestinians could do, but rather "mobilizing financial means by introducing industries, adopting proper plans, with the full consent of the Palestinians, Mr. Arafat, without the objection of the Israeli government and with the support of the Europeans and the Americans."

"We can't allow all the pressure both economic and political to be on the shoulders of Arafat. We would like to help at least in the economic sector," he added.

IAF jets fly long-range training sorties in Turkey

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Israeli fighter jets have carried out 120 sorties in Turkey this year, many of them practice for long-range missions, since Israeli air space is so limited. Israeli CH-53 transport helicopters have also recorded over 120 sorties from another Turkish Air Force base, a senior defense official said in Tel Aviv yesterday.

Turkey has come under criticism by Muslim countries for such cooperation. On Wednesday President Suleyman Demirel withdrew from a global Islamic summit in Tehran to avoid facing additional criticism of his country's ties with Israel. He defended his country's military accord with Israel, saying the agreement is bilateral and does not pose a threat to any third country.

The defense official said that IAF helicopter pilots have become familiar with the Turkish terrain, which helped them to respond quickly to a Turkish request last July to help put out a fire at the country's main munitions plant.

This week, Israel was put on the short list for supplying ammunition to Turkey, whose bomb-production facility was seriously damaged in the fire. The announcement coincidentally came during Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's visit, which he said opened the door for many lucrative defense contracts.

Israel and Turkey signed a defense cooperation agreement in 1996 which allows pilots from both countries to train in each other's country. The IAF desperately lacks air space and its training areas are being restricted more and more. Turkey can provide long-distance training grounds. For their part, Turkish pilots are about to enhance their flight training with advanced Israeli simulators and technology.

Meanwhile, a senior officer yesterday dismissed a report in London's *Foreign Report* that the IAF will permanently station jets in Turkey.

In Ankara, Turkish military headquarters announced that the joint naval maneuvers among Israel, Turkey, and the United States is to be held January 5-9. The maneuvers, dubbed "Reliant Mermaid," were previously scheduled for October and then November.

"The aim of the exercises is to develop joint training for sea-air search and rescue operations among the three nations' fleets," an army statement said. Defense officials in Tel Aviv would only confirm that the exercise is to be held at the beginning of January.

Demir Metehan adds from Ankara:

The semi-annual strategic talks between Turkey and Israel are to be held in Ankara on December 22. Turkish and Israeli defense sources said. The talks, the third since the 1996 military alliance was formed, are aimed at furthering an evaluation of joint threats and responses to them as well as numerous defense industry issues. Deputy Chief of General Staff Gen. Cevik Bir will lead the Turkish delegation, while David Ivry, Mordechai's special adviser, will head the Israeli delegation.

Turkish defense sources said the talks will focus on the increasing ballistic missile threat from Iran and Syria.

Meanwhile, the busy political traffic between Israel and Turkey is intensifying day by day. Turkish Defense Minister Undersecretary Lt.-Gen. Tuncer Kilinc is to visit Israel on December 21 to discuss details of the F-4 modernization agreement that Ankara signed with Israel. Turkish Land Forces Commander Gen. Huseyin Kivrikoglu is to visit in January.

OK planned for Farrakhan visit

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu during his stay, but the officials said this will be out of the question "unless he retracts" the offensive remarks he made about Jews, Jewry and Judaism.

Eighteen years ago, Rev. Jesse Jackson was refused a meeting with Menachem Begin during a visit here. He, too, had made derogatory statements about Jews, but they were much less vitriolic than Farrakhan's.

Deliberations are continuing at the Foreign Ministry about the Farrakhan visit and no final decisions have been made, officials said.

Liat Collins adds:

MK Ophir Pines (Labor) has written to Foreign Minister David Levy demanding that Farrakhan be given no official treatment during his planned visit to Israel.

"Farrakhan's past is full of anti-semitic and racist statements and incitement against the Jews, Judaism and other groups," wrote Pines. "Israel as a democratic state cannot and should not stop Farrakhan from entering the country but he should be dealt with as a regular tourist on a visit. Any form of legitimacy given him by special meetings or in any other manner will cause serious harm to Israel and its image."

"If Farrakhan is truly interested in peace and conciliation he must first take back the inflammatory rhetoric in which he excels, and prove his willingness to make a real reconciliation with our people."

Monitoring panel blames Israel for deaths

NAKOURA (AP) — A five-nation monitoring group yesterday held Israel responsible for bombings that killed three Lebanese civilians on the edge of the security zone in southern Lebanon.

The committee had been meeting since Tuesday in the Lebanese coastal town of Nakoura over the Lebanese complaint about the bomb explosions last Friday. It also considered a second complaint about the expulsion of a Lebanese-American citizen from Israeli-held territory that day.

Hizbullah accused the IDF of planting the bombs in a ravine near the village of Majdal Silim, where a shepherd and two body shop workers were killed.

At the end of their meeting, representatives from the United States, France, Lebanon, Israel, and Syria issued a statement, saying the group "expressed its regret" at the casualties.

"The group considered that Israel and those cooperating with it are responsible for the manner in which their explosive devices are utilized," said the statement.

It reiterated a call for "all necessary measures" in future to avoid incidents that could hurt civilians "in areas where they may pass in the course of their normal activities."

On the other complaint over the expulsion of Lebanese-American Nabil Baydoun, 44, from Detroit, the monitoring group deferred the matter for discussion through diplomatic channels, "with a view to reaching a diplomatic solution."

The Jerusalem Post

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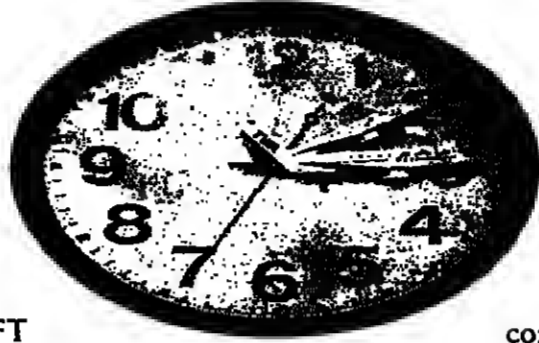
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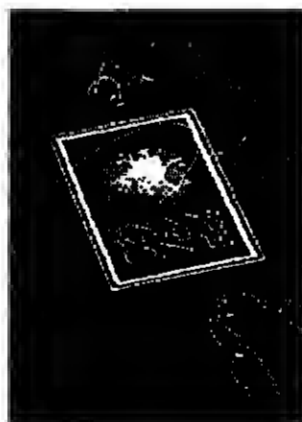
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Blame Assad, not false information

GERALD M. STEINBERG

Yehuda Gil, the Mossad agent charged with fabricating intelligence information on Syria, had an accomplice. Without President Hafez Assad's assistance, no one would have taken Gil's reported allegations regarding Syrian plans to attack Israel seriously.

Assad consistently condemns other Arab states for normalizing relations with Israel. In his speech before the Islamic summit in Teheran, he spoke in racist terms, while praising Iran's "support of the Arab nation and her struggle against Zionism and her resistance of Zionist greed in the land, wealth, and resources of Arabs and Moslems."

OTHER Syrian officials talk frequently and publicly about the "inevitability of war with Israel." In a recent interview published in the Arabic press, a high-level official boasted that "Syria is strong and can cause Israel the heaviest of losses. It does not need weapons from outside, since it manufactures its own weapons, for example 600-kilometer range missiles that are not imported."

In Lebanon, the Syrians provide direct support and military protection for Hizbullah's guerrilla war against Israel. Assad has repeatedly blocked efforts to negotiate an end to this conflict, and has attempted to use the fighting in Lebanon to pressure Israel. Thus, the potential for crisis and wider regional conflict is not the result of an agent provocateur's false information, but of Syrian policies.

In addition, the Assad regime's murder of thousands of Syrians in Hama in the campaign to destroy the Moslem Brotherhood in 1982, and Syria military support for the PLO's attempted coup in Jordan in 1970, have not been forgotten.

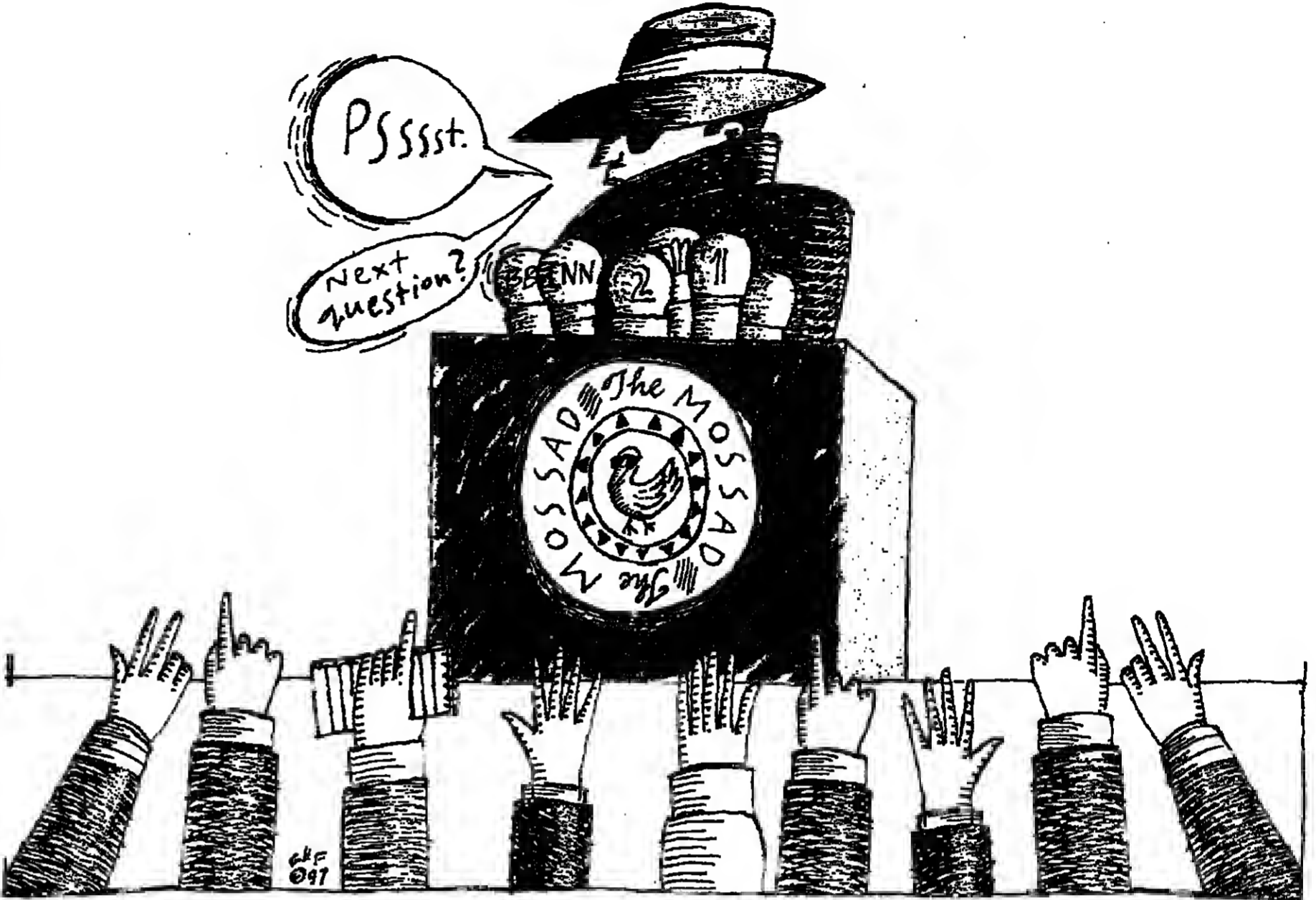
A few years ago, Syrian state television broadcast ceremonies of a "celebration" in Assad's honor. In addition to the usual military displays, this celebration included women soldiers biting snakes, apparently to demonstrate their bravery. In Israel, these scenes reinforced the image of a brutal state willing to accept very high casualties for ideological goals.

In 1996, Israeli decision makers acted carefully and responsibly, discounting Gil's claims and also taking a series of clear actions to reassure the Syrians. However, there is no guarantee that future false alarms will not lead to accidental war.

Assad has consistently rejected the creation of a "hot line" between Damascus and Jerusalem. Similar systems linking the Israeli leadership with the heads of Egypt and Jordan have proven to be valuable tools for defusing crises. In the absence of dialogue and open communication, the potential for misunderstandings, particularly in crises, will remain.

None of this reduces the severity of the charges against Yehuda Gil. His actions weakened Israeli intelligence, and under different circumstances, could have triggered a war. However, as long as Damascus remains a mystery, Assad continues to undermine normalization between Israel and the Arab world, and Syria prepares for war, the sources of instability will remain.

The writer is a professor of political studies at Bar-Ilan University and director of the Arms Control Program at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies.



The Mossad in the media age

JOSEPH ALPHER

A number of lessons can be learned from the Yehuda Gil affair, as it has unfolded thus far, regarding the long-term relationship between the Mossad and the public.

sources, photographs, details on modus operandi - that is thrust upon the public merely compounds the original security damage done by Gil.

One area in which the Mossad itself can take corrective measures is the realm of manpower recruitment and the "care and handling" of its agents. To be sure, a career in the Mossad is not something normally considered appropriate for a "nice Jewish boy (or girl)." It may involve long periods abroad, separation from family and familiar surroundings, and heavy psychological pressures brought on both by operational demands and by the reliance on deception as a normative way of dealing with people.

The operative has to be highly intelligent, adventurous, a bit of a bastard, fluent in languages, and thick-skinned. Israel requires a relatively large number of operatives to deal with the huge intelligence challenges it faces. It is no longer true that only the "best and the brightest" go into security careers, and there is little that can be done about this.

Hence it is difficult to find suitable candidates, and compromises

must be made. Nevertheless, too frequently we learn of operatives, or trainees like Victor Ostrovsky (*By Way of Deception*), who are taken on board in view of their special skills, such as languages or military background, while ignoring obvious personality defects.

The Mossad needs a spokesman so it can engage in information control, rather than attempts at information denial

ostrovsky's recruitment was not the first instance in which the Mossad chose to ignore a previous record of improprieties.

ALTERNATELY, over-reliance on a skilled operative like Gil results in his being kept on the job too long - or brought back from retire-

ment - rather than bringing in fresh forces, even at the expense of a temporary downturn in productivity. Operational personnel have to be screened better on the moral plane to weed out those who cannot distinguish between deceiving our enemies and deceiving our own side.

But because the human factor is paramount in Mossad operations, mistakes are inevitable. This brings us to an additional area in which, however belatedly, lessons can be learned from the Gil affair.

The Mossad needs a spokesman. The Gil affair offered a reliable illustration of the virtual impossibility of maintaining secrecy in Israel in the late 1990s, once initial information has gotten out. One reason is the growing readiness of Mossad personnel themselves to talk quickly to the press - because of professional frustrations, personal grudges, politics, or even a sense that they are serving the national good.

Another is the way the modern electronic media works, rendering national borders and governmental press restrictions virtually meaningless. Finally, Israel's own standards of security censorship

have been radically softened in recent years; once the initial, deliberately vague report of the affair came out in *Ha'aretz*, the military censor was repeatedly unable to justify muzzling the media regarding additional, more detailed information.

All this points to the need for the Mossad to engage in information control, rather than (frequently ineffective) attempts at information denial. A spokesman who combines both security and media experience would conceivably be more successful in limiting the damage in a case like this. Hopefully, this would reduce the inclination of intelligence personnel to talk to the media in an irresponsible manner, while guaranteeing the public its maximum right to know, within security bounds.

This is not the first time the idea of a spokesman has been broached by this writer and others. What does the Mossad have to lose by trying?

The writer is a former senior official in the Mossad. He is currently director of the Israel/Middle East Office of the American Jewish Committee.

Assad claims to have made 'a strategic decision' for peace, but his words and actions point in the opposite direction

He refused, raising serious doubts about his objectives.

Although the Golan Heights have been quiet since the ceasefire agreement in 1974, Syria remains on a war footing and is prepared for a full-scale conflict. The crisis that led to the war scare in the fall of 1996 began when the 14th Division of the Syrian army left Beirut and took up positions near Mt. Hermon. In 1973, the Syrian surprise attack started with a helicopter-borne assault on the early-warning station near the summit. This time, no secret information was required to raise the level of concern in Israel.

The Syrians maintain a standing army of over 300,000 soldiers (twice the Israeli total), 4,600 main battle tanks, and close to 600 combat aircraft.

The numbers are increasing, and since "choosing peace," the Assad government has spent large sums on new weapons and missiles. The Syrian army holds large-scale annual exercises on the Syrian side of the Golan, including missile tests. Assad has also equipped his forces with the most deadly chemical weapons, including VX nerve gas.

As a result, Israeli leaders and analysts take the possibility that Syria might decide to "launch a limited attack - a 'quick grab' to gain a foothold in the Golan - or perhaps a wider assault very seriously. Any changes in Syrian military deployments trigger alarms and defensive preparations, "just in case."

The transition from peace to war can be very quick, and by planting false information regarding Syrian plans, Yehuda Gil might have triggered a war. However, the instability that gave Gil this opportunity is Syria's responsibility.

These military preparations for war are reinforced by the policies and public statements of the Assad regime. It is still a prominent member of the "rejectionist front," refusing to engage in direct contacts with Israelis, including academic meetings and informal discussions designed to ease tension, increase understanding, and avoid confusion.

Long haul for pensions

PINCHAS LANDAU

The results of the strike that ended Monday morning, after several days, were sufficiently inconclusive for both sides to claim at least a partial victory.

Given the loose ends drooping from the temporary settlement and, more importantly, given the fact that the Treasury and the public sector unions are only now going to open negotiations on the next multi-year wage package, it seems a fair bet that we will see more labor unrest in the not-too-distant future.

However, on the underlying issue over which the strike was conducted, some clear progress was made. The issue is the structure of the public sector pension system, and the progress was that the Histadrut agreed that all new employees in the public sector will be in a contributory pension plan, whereas hitherto they have been in a non-contributory one.

The difference between the two approaches is enormous: In a contributory scheme, not only does the employee pay a percentage of his gross salary into his pension plan, but the employer knows exactly how much his contribution is - and this becomes part of his ongoing wage costs. When the employee retires, his pension is not paid by the employer but by the pension fund where it has accumulated, so that retirement ends the financial obligation of the employer to the (now former) employee.

In a non-contributory system, known as a "budgetary pension," the employer - i.e. the government, local authority, state agency, etc. - pays pensions to former employees out of its current budget. As the Treasury was at pains to point out during the recent dispute, the actuarial obligation built up by the state to

former and current employees - meaning the money it will have to pay out in the future, but hasn't yet budgeted - amounts to an estimated NIS 163 billion. Worse, it is growing at a very rapid clip, so that although it doesn't show up in current budgets or in existing government debt, it represents a massive addition to total government indebtedness.

Enough to bankrupt the country, sooner or later, if the system isn't changed. That's no idle threat, as a series of crises in European countries (Sweden, Italy, and others) in recent years, has made abundantly clear.

BUT the latest agreement between the Treasury and the Histadrut doesn't mean that Israel has sorted out its pension structure problem. In the best case, it means that a significant step forward has been made. The trouble is that the Histadrut has previously agreed (twice) to move the public sector from budgetary to contributory pensions, but the public sector unions have blocked the implementation of this move.

Even if the Treasury has now maneuvered the Histadrut and the unions into going ahead with the move, which will in any case be a very gradual process, that gain has been proven costly. It has been achieved only after a tough and bitter struggle which saw the government renege on an obligation signed - however wrongly and for whatever political motives - by the previous government, and after the Histadrut brazenly flouted the National Labor Court rulings.

This damage could have been avoided by the government adopt-

ing a less overtly aggressive stance toward the Histadrut. The Treasury's tactics boomeranged so badly that many commentators have credited the government with giving the moribund and bankrupt Histadrut a new lease on life. A process of negotiation in which the government showed firm resolve, but without viciousness, might well have achieved more, almost certainly at a lower cost.

Lastly, but hardly least, the latest pension deal, no less than its predecessors, is fundamentally flawed by the fact that it enshrines the right of pension funds to put most of their money in non-tradeable, high-yield government bonds.

It is difficult to exaggerate the long-term damage that this will do to the economy. The clearest and most immediate aspect of this damage is that it ensures that the Israeli capital markets will remain shallow, illiquid, and largely useless for corporations seeking to raise debt and for private investors seeking to invest in such corporate paper. In short, the bond market, which is the heart of the capital market, remains nationalized, as it always has been. That's very bad news for the development of the financial markets, and bad news for investors. Corporations will seek alternative capital sources overseas, but the most natural supply of investment funds for the domestic economy, namely long-term domestic savings, remains blocked. Indeed, the blockage has been strengthened and consolidated by a supposedly pre-market government which, in this as in most things, has demonstrated that it knows not what it does.

The writer comments on economic affairs.

The turning point in the McCarthy era in the US came when Joseph Welch, chief counsel for the US Army, confronted the Wisconsin senator in public hearings with the question, "Sir, have you no sense of decency left?"

The same question could be addressed today to the leaders of the Reform and Conservative movements over their campaign against passage of the conversion bill. Their no-holds-barred tactics have bitterly divided world Jewry, alienated American Jews from Israel, and seriously undermined the position of Israel with the Clinton administration. And for what?

Because a few dozen Reform and Conservative rabbis in Israel feel dissed that they cannot officiate at weddings and their conversions are not recognized by the Chief Rabbinate. (In every other respect, they function no differently than in America.)

Amiel Hirsch, head of the Association of Reform Zionists of America, told Kol Yisrael this past summer how he and his colleagues have asked members of Congress, with whom they have ties, to inform Israel how upset they are with the religious status quo. Since Hirsch suffers from no lack of access to Israeli leaders and MKs, his statement must be read: We have asked US congressmen to threaten and pressure Israel.

The results of that lobbying have been all too evident. Last May, Assistant Secretary of State Stephen Coffey, in testimony before the Senate, lumped Israel together with Iraq, Algeria, and Iran as countries that deny freedom of religion. He was doing

A question of tactics

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

nothing more than echoing the "big lie" of the Reform and Conservative ad campaign that Israel is, or soon will be, an Iranian-style theocracy.

The damage done to Israel by such testimony is inestimable. It undercuts the major basis of

JUST two months ago, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright placed the onus for the stalled peace talks on the failure of the PLO to deal with terrorism. Today, the Clinton administration is so confident that American Jews will not rally to Israel's defense, that the president

In their battle against the conversion bill, the Reform and Conservative movements have bitterly divided world Jewry and seriously undermined the position of Israel with the Clinton administration

Israel's support with the American public and Congress: its claim to be the only functioning democracy in the Middle East. Nor is the damage limited to Congress.

If President Bill Clinton had not read three front-page stories in *The New York Times* two weeks ago describing the mounting disaffection of American Jewry over the conversion bill, would he have been so quick to attribute America's ongoing humiliation by Saddam Hussein not to his own lack of resolve, but to Israel's alleged recalcitrance in the peace process? Even for a president so experienced at brazening himself out of embarrassing situations that was a little much.

Unfortunately, however, as the perception grows in Washington that Israel can count on little support in the American Jewish community - a perception fueled by open lobbying by Jewish groups against Israel - it is a likely harbinger of things to come.

feels free to snub Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and to place the blame on Israel for the failure of the peace process.

Israel is far too important to be left to Israelis, says Eric Yoffie, leader of the American Reform movement, by way of explaining why American Jews have undertaken to save Israelis from the religious status quo that has been in place since the creation of the state. Israelis are too stupid, in his view, to realize how oppressed they are. The truth is, however, that neither Yoffie nor the millions for whom he claims to speak care greatly about either Israel or Israelis. If the Reform movement cared, it would not be undermining Israel's standing by its lobbying efforts at a time when the physical security of Israel's inhabitants is increasingly threatened by enemies arming themselves with nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons.

According to a 1995 study by the American Jewish Congress, only

17 percent of Reform Jews identify strongly with Israel (as opposed to 72% of the Orthodox), and over 40% say that they would not view the destruction of Israel as a personal tragedy. Only 10% of non-Orthodox American Jews have even visited Israel.

These grim numbers will only worsen as the toll of intermarriage rises. The Reform intermarriage rate is already well above 50%, and only 18% of the children of intermarriage are raised as Jews. It is these statistics, and the loss of any meaningful Jewish identity they reveal, which make a Jewish campaign against Israel psychologically thinkable in the first place.

Yet as tepid as is the support for Israel by most non-Orthodox Jews, Israel nevertheless remains one of the few points of Jewish identity. By continually drumming home to their congregants, in sermon after sermon, that Israel rejects Reform Jews, Reform leaders are playing with fire for very short-term gain.

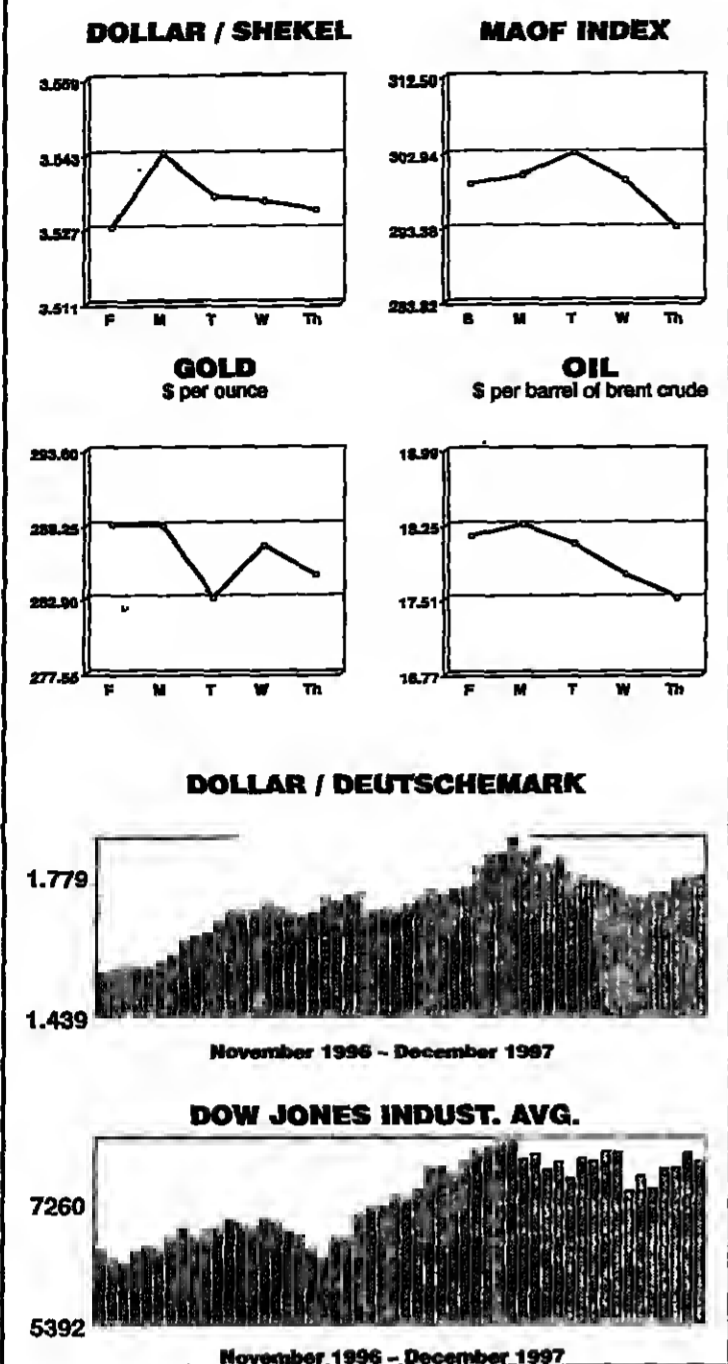
The Orthodox-bashing that dominated Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur sermons across the US is a measure of the spiritual failure of the Reform and Conservative movements over the past hundred years in America. The only thing they can offer to arouse their members is hatred of the Orthodox.

But when all the fusillades against the Orthodox have cleared, American Jews will be no closer to their tradition. Just the opposite. Having been taught to despise the most identifiable representatives of that tradition and that the Jewish state is not theirs, they will be more spiritually bereft than ever.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

MARKETS

in brief



Real estate prices dropped by as much as 15% in 1997

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Housing prices declined by 5 to 15 percent in real terms during the last 12 months, industry sources estimate. The sharpest decline was felt in luxury homes selling for \$2 million-\$2.5 million along the coastal plain, which lost 15% of their value. In some cases their market value fell by 30%.

While prices of larger homes fell sharply, the prices of two-bedroom apartments remained almost unchanged. The market for these flats is relatively stable, with a somewhat sharper decline in areas south of Tel Aviv.

Industry sources say that the market for the small apartments remains stable,

because the demand for these flats remains high. "Young couples and new immigrants are the main buyers of these apartments and because of that prices don't decline, and even rise slightly in certain areas," said Meir Nachson CEO of the Anglo-Saxon Real Estate Agency.

Prices in Jerusalem have also fallen, but at a slower pace. Experts say the ongoing shortage of houses in the capital keeps demand high. In addition, foreign investors who lowered their business activity in Israel because of the political situation continue to purchase flats in Jerusalem for ideological reasons.

Prices of expensive apartments of four to five bedrooms were also falling, with those in the Ramat Aviv area losing close to 10%

during the past year.

Figures compiled by the Housing Ministry show that, during the first nine months of the year, sales of new apartments by the country's 10 largest companies fell 12% compared with the equivalent period of 1996.

The decline in housing prices is mainly attributed to the steady decline in immigration and to the general slowing-down of the economy.

The influx of new immigrants in the early 1990s is widely seen as the main engine behind the sharp rise in housing prices this decade.

Another factor impacting the market is the decline in the number of housing starts, which dropped 18% in the first nine

months of the year.

If this decline continues, a shortage may be felt in the market within a year, experts believe.

Industry sources said that many contractors are postponing new projects and some have even returned land to the Israel Lands Administration.

The sources said that while it is hard to predict when the market will recover, the general estimate is that if overall growth starts accelerating in the second half of 1998, it will generate increased demand, which in turn will result in higher property prices.

Full feature to appear in Tuesday's issue.

Intel's Shabbat schedule meets rabbis' resistance

Globes news service

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs will not grant Intel permission to operate its Kiryat Gat plant on Shabbat, sources close to this struggle said yesterday.

The assessment is based on the pressure recently exerted by various rabbis, who have sent letters to several plants operating on Shabbat, as well as to the ministers of labor and social affairs, industry and trade, and finance.

Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Eli Yishai has set up a team within his ministry to review Intel's request for a permit.

To date, pressure has been brought to bear only by heads of local rabbinical councils, such

as Yeruham's, where a struggle has been raging for a long time between the Phoenicia plant and the rabbinical council.

Until now, Shabbat work permits were only granted to plants where idle machines would cause severe damage, such as the Dead Sea magnesium plant, or plants which could let non-Jewish workers operate production lines.

Globes has learned that more than a few plants continue to hold shifts on Shabbat to keep to delivery schedules, even without permits.

Among such plants are high-tech and semiconductor plants, such as Tower Semiconductor which operates on Shabbat. It should be noted that some of Intel's local plants have been given Shabbat permits.



When in Rome...
Students demonstrate in central Rome yesterday over proposed government cutbacks for state schools. The student's placard criticizes the funding of private schools at the expense of public ones. (AP)

Neeman: PA parks should be free-trade zones

By DAVID HARRIS

Joint industrial parks in the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Jordan, and Israel should be designated free-trade zones, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said yesterday at a conference of the Center for Middle East Competitive Strategy, "not only regarding taxation, but regarding liberalization from restrictions by all governments concerned."

The Karmi industrial park in Gaza should be ready for the first companies to move in by May, according to Kunitz Kikuchi, the

International Finance Corporation's principle investment officer for the region. A team from the corporation visited the park earlier this week to see how construction is progressing.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged regional businessmen to work together no matter how the peace process develops.

"Economic development should be developed in its own right," he said. "The first thing you have to do is foster trade and joint ventures, because what you can do together is better than what you

do alone."

The center works to improve economic cooperation among Israel, the PA, Egypt, and Jordan. Netanyahu warned the businessmen that cooperation with surrounding countries is not a prize for Israel, but a shared regional need.

A European company has recently expressed interest in setting up a joint Israeli-Egyptian high-tech company, Netanyahu said. "Why not think of Egypt as a mixed economy, high-tech and low-tech. Why can't we have joint ventures with Egypt. We can apply the same principles to chemicals, plastics, anything."

"Israeli industry today is capa-

ble of building joint ventures in neighboring countries," said Manufactures Association President Dan Propper.

Within 20 years Israel and its neighbors could have a well trained, technologically advanced workforce if cooperation is implemented today, he suggested.

This must be done in three stages: job creation, bringing the technology to our neighbors, and these in turn creating the need for advanced education across the region. By combining R&D, new infrastructure, education, and marketing abroad, Israel and the neighboring countries can become the industrial backyard of Europe."

Elbit, Boeing seek to cooperate in Polish copter upgrade bid

By STEVE RODAN

Elbit Systems and Boeing are looking into including the North American aerospace giant in the \$650 million contract to upgrade Poland's Huzar helicopter, while not hampering the status of the Israeli consortium's two other members, Elbit executives said yesterday.

The Israeli consortium also includes Rafael and El-Op Electro-Optics Industries.

"There is no way to break up the package," Elbit president Joseph Ackerman said. "We will find a way to satisfy Boeing, even on Poland, without breaking up the consortium."

The contacts between the two companies come as Poland's Defense Ministry, despite signing an agreement with the consortium, intends to bring in Boeing as a leading participant in the controversial upgrade. The sources said a commission of Polish Defense, Economic, and Foreign Ministry officials is reexamining the competition between the Israeli consortium and a group led by

Boeing.

The return of Boeing to the competition comes despite a recent assertion by Mike Sears, president of Boeing's McDonnell Aircraft and Missile Group, that the company will no longer pursue the contract. "We have stopped all pro-active work to try to win that competition," he told a November 6 news conference in St. Louis.

"Our people are off to the side looking at other things and thinking how we are going to win the next competition."

But the new Polish government, elected in September, has refused to accept Boeing's intention to withdraw from the competition. Defense industry sources said Warsaw has been under tremendous pressure from the US Congress, which says the competition improperly favored the Israelis, to include Boeing in the upgrade deal.

"The manner in which this decision transpired seems to us sufficiently faulty, to avoid using stronger language, for it to be necessary to subject all of this to a thorough analysis," Polish Deputy Defense Minister Romuald Szarembkiewicz said in a recent interview on Polish television.

Polish defense sources said if Elbit does not reach an under-

standing with Boeing, then the Defense Ministry will recommend the competition be reopened. Under the Polish proposal, which Israeli defense sources said has not been formally submitted, Elbit and El-Op would withdraw from the upgrade project. This would leave Boeing to supply the electronics and avionics upgrade, with Rafael to sell the anti-armor NT-D missile.

Israeli defense officials and Elbit executives have resisted this effort. Elbit executives have argued that their company's electronics package is vital to the NT-D missile system.

"An agreement has been signed between two countries," Elbit's Ackerman said. "From a technical and business point of view, you can't separate the deal. The Poles understand this."

Ackerman said Elbit has not heard any appeal from the new Polish government to include Boeing in the Huzar contract. He said his company remains in contact with the Defense Ministry in Warsaw concerning the technical issues of the upgrade.

On October 13, Israeli and Polish officials signed a framework agreement that lays the foundation for a contract award to the Elbit-led consortium. But Polish

officials and Israeli defense sources agree that Warsaw did not sign a contract to purchase either the missiles or the electronics upgrade package.

"At this point, the agreement signed is only a piece of paper," Avraham Bar-David, president of Tamuz Control Systems International, said.

Defense executives in both Israel and the US said Boeing, despite its announcement, still intends to participate in the Huzar upgrade. The executives said the US company, which has quietly discussed the prospects of cooperation with Elbit and Rafael, is convinced that the Poles are seeking to include it in an attempt to assuage US officials who have charged that the tender was improper.

A Boeing spokesman, Paul Tobin, did not rule out a return to the competition. "We like everyone else have seen the wide variety of press coverage on this issue," he said. "What is clear is that this is a matter that first must be resolved within the government of Poland. Once that decision is made, we will determine which course best suits all of our customers and our company."

Bar-David said unless Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

intervenes the Poles will grant the entire contract to Boeing.

He said Elbit will not allow Rafael to leave the consortium, leaving the Poles no other way to include US contractors in the Huzar upgrade.

"The Americans are applying tremendous pressure," he said. "Unless the prime minister is ready to talk straight in Washington with the White House and tell it that if we don't win this project, we will lose 2,000 jobs, so let this go, then Boeing will win the project."

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Israel - from every point of view

Friday, December 12, 1997

FINANCIAL MARKETS

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Large advertisement on the left side of the page, partially obscured by a 'Friday, December 12, 1997' stamp. Includes text like 'Israel from every point of view' and 'upgrade bio'.

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NEWS in FOCUS

Friday, December 12, 1997 The Jerusalem Post

13

A spy caught in his own web

The false information spread by Yehuda Gil did not harm national security. But in the murky world of international intelligence, the damage to Israel's reputation might be significant, experts tell Herb Keinon

There was something refreshing, even heartwarmingly Jewish, about hearing legendary Mossad officer Rafi Eitan quoting the medieval biblical commentator Rashi, while giving his spin this week on the Yehuda Gil Affair.

"Look," Eitan told Israel Radio, in a gravely voice, "the first spies in the Bible - the 12 spies who went to spy out the Land of Canaan - came back and spoke badly about it."

Then, sounding more like a rabbi delivering a sermon than like an intelligence officer involved in some of the country's biggest spy coups - and failures - Eitan said: "There is a Rashi commentary there that says the greatest damage the spies did was to give advice [not merely report accurately what they saw]. It is forbidden for handlers, or for the agencies, to give advice. They must only report the facts, not give commentary."

Like the biblical spies who exaggerated the size and ferocity of the inhabitants of Canaan to dissuade the Children of Israel from attempting to conquer it, so Eitan implied - Gil passed on his false information to help the military and political echelon come to the "proper" conclusion: That the Syrians never made a strategic choice for peace. Here is a man who had a thesis, and then cooked up the facts to support it.

"I was very surprised by this," said Ephraim Lapid, who served 20 years in military intelligence, including three years as the head of one of its key departments. "We have never had anything like this before. I would have been less surprised to have heard about a double agent. That is something known. But Gil was not an agent. Agents are generally Arab sources. Gil was a Mossad employee. This is comparable to an architect who designs a house, and then turns out to be the one responsible for destroying it."

THE GIL Affair is not the first time a Mossad operative has turned sour.

In the early days of the state there was Avri Elad, the so-called "Third Man" in the notorious

1950s espionage case, who betrayed his Israeli comrades to the Egyptians in an episode that has come to be known as the Lavon Affair. And there was Mordechai Kaidar, a Mossad man who spent 17 years in jail for killing an intelligence informant in Argentina in 1961.

More recently the Mossad produced Victor Ostrovsky, the man who spent 14 months in the Mossad in the 1980s, and then went to Canada and wrote two

Yehuda Gil was neither Kim Philby nor Aldridge Ames. He was an embarrassing gnat on the Mossad's reputation, but he was no burrowing mole

kiss-and-tell books about the organization (see adjacent story). Ostrovsky, like Gil, was accused of badly tarnishing the organization's reputation.

All week long, pundits and intelligence analysts were repeating a common line: Gil did not do any real damage to state security. He did not pass on secrets to the state's enemies; he was not a double agent. Yehuda Gil was neither Kim Philby nor Aldridge Ames. He was an embarrassing gnat on the Mossad's reputation, but he was no burrowing mole.

In the snipe-and-mirrors world of intelligence, however, reputation means a lot. Damage an agency's reputation, and you damage its ability to collect information - both from prospective agents, and other spy agencies.

It is possible, said Lapid, that someone who may have been willing to work with the Mossad, may now change his mind.

"The willingness of people to

cooperate with us is not something concrete. They like to cooperate with somebody strong, professional and with a good name. It happens many times that when the image changes - the image of the country in general and the intelligence agencies in particular - things change. The willingness to cooperate is influenced by our image.

The importance of image can be likened to the choice a person makes on what airline to fly, said a source well acquainted with the intelligence community. "If you have a choice to fly Aeroflot or Swissair," he said, "which airline are you going to choose?"

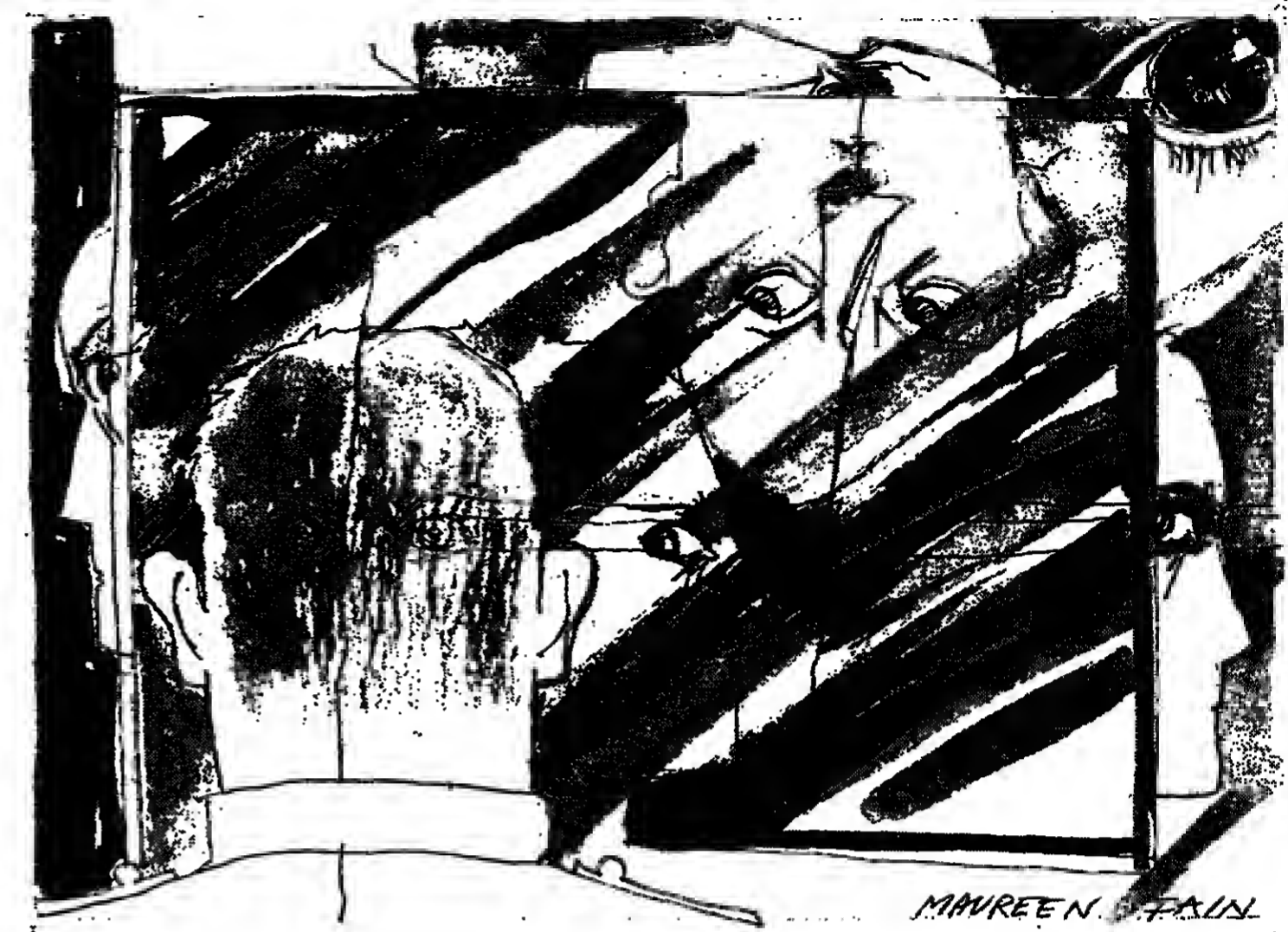
BENNY MORRIS, co-author of *Israel's Secret Wars: The Untold History of Israeli Intelligence*, said "If you are trying to recruit an agent in Europe or wherever, and you say you are from the Mossad, if the man respects the organization, thinks he will be paid properly, that he will be protected, and that there won't be leaks, then the job is easier. But if the organization has a reputation that it is full of leaks and people who make up stories, then he will think twice and three times about joining up."

Having said that, Morris, a professor of history at Ben-Gurion University and a central figure in what has become known as the school of "new" or "revisionist" Zionist historians, said he can't measure the damage of the Gil Affair.

"The Mossad is not crawling with 5,000 people all making up stories," Morris said. "As far as we know, it is one incident in 40 or 50 years of someone making up stories for political purposes and self-importance."

According to Morris, one possible repercussion will be that "it might raise new inhibitions or new doubts that this is a place people will want to go to if they want to give information to a Western intelligence organization."

"Remember, we are not the only people in the field; there are the British and Americans, and they are all trying to find about Iraq and Iran. If a guy wants to sell information, he might think it is safer



MAUREEN O'FAIN

Another look at Victor Ostrovsky

to do it with [Britain's] MI6."

On a completely theoretical level, said Uri Bialer, an international relations professor at the Hebrew University who has done research on intelligence and international relations, "intelligence agencies gather information both unilaterally and bilaterally, through connections with other agencies. In dealing with other agencies, this [the Gil Affair] is not positive."

But, Bialer said, "These things are universal. All intelligence agencies have affairs that show they are not dependable. This can - but does not always necessarily - have to - cause problems."

"I am convinced that when the British moles were revealed in the '50s and '60s, it did not help British intelligence in its relations with the CIA. That is the clearest metaphor I can give. I'm not saying this is our case, but something like this is definitely not desirable."

That is on the theoretical plane. In real life, said Lapid, this incident is not likely to impact that heavily on the Mossad's relations with other institutions.

"The other intelligence agencies know how to keep a single incident in proportion," he said. "They have a history of feedback with us, and information from us on many different planes. They know our true abilities."

In other words, Lapid said, the CIA is not going to downgrade relations with the Mossad as a result of Yehuda Gil.

"The CIA knows exactly what we are worth, both for better and for worse," he said.

The Yehuda Gil Affair might be bad for the Mossad and bad for Israel, but it's been great for Victor Ostrovsky.

Ostrovsky is the renegade Mossad agent who spent 14 months in the agency before being drummed out in the 1980s. He subsequently returned to his native Canada and wrote two damning books about the Mossad. The first, *By Way of Deception*, was for months the center of a storm, as the government sought unsuccessfully to ban its publication.

Yehuda Gil appears a number of times in Ostrovsky's book.

"Next came Yehuda Gil's lecture on the subtleties of recruitment," Ostrovsky wrote of his days in the Mossad's training course. "Gil was a legendary *katsa* [case officer in charge of recruiting agents abroad], whom Riff [commander of the training course] introduced as a 'master.'"

Ostrovsky wrote how Gil helped gather intelligence on the Iraqi nuclear weapons plant that was destroyed in an IAF raid in 1981, how he helped plan Operation Moses, which brought

thousands of Ethiopian Jews here in 1985, and how he posed as a wealthy entrepreneur to recruit the brother of a high-ranking Syrian official. The brother gained information from his influential brother and, unbeknownst to him, passed it on to Israel.

'There are many Yehuda Gils in the Mossad,' Victor Ostrovsky said

Ostrovsky, widely considered here to be a miscreant who sold out his country for a fat publishing advance, enjoyed a degree of rehabilitation this week, as journalists turned to him for the inside scoop on the Gil Affair. In one interview, Ostrovsky said it would be a grave mistake to think that Gil was alone in pocketing money meant for intelligence sources.

"There are many Yehuda Gils in the Mossad," he said. "There is almost no *katsa* who doesn't have an agent he handles, whom only he knows, and whom nobody else can talk to. Almost everyone makes sure that he has one person like this, so that he can continue to travel the world and meet with him. There are many case officers that not only do this for the trips, but who also take money meant for these agents."

One source well acquainted with the intelligence community angrily dismissed Ostrovsky's charges, saying they are complete nonsense.

"He is a rogue even more than Gil," the source said. "Now he is riding on a wave. Who is he all of a sudden - the defender of justice?"

But Benny Morris, who co-authored *Israel's Secret Wars: The Untold History of Israeli Intelligence* - was not willing to dismiss as lies everything that Ostrovsky says.

"He has told things that are true, revealed important secrets," Morris said, "but he has also made up things to pad his books. One cannot know when he is telling the truth." - H.K.

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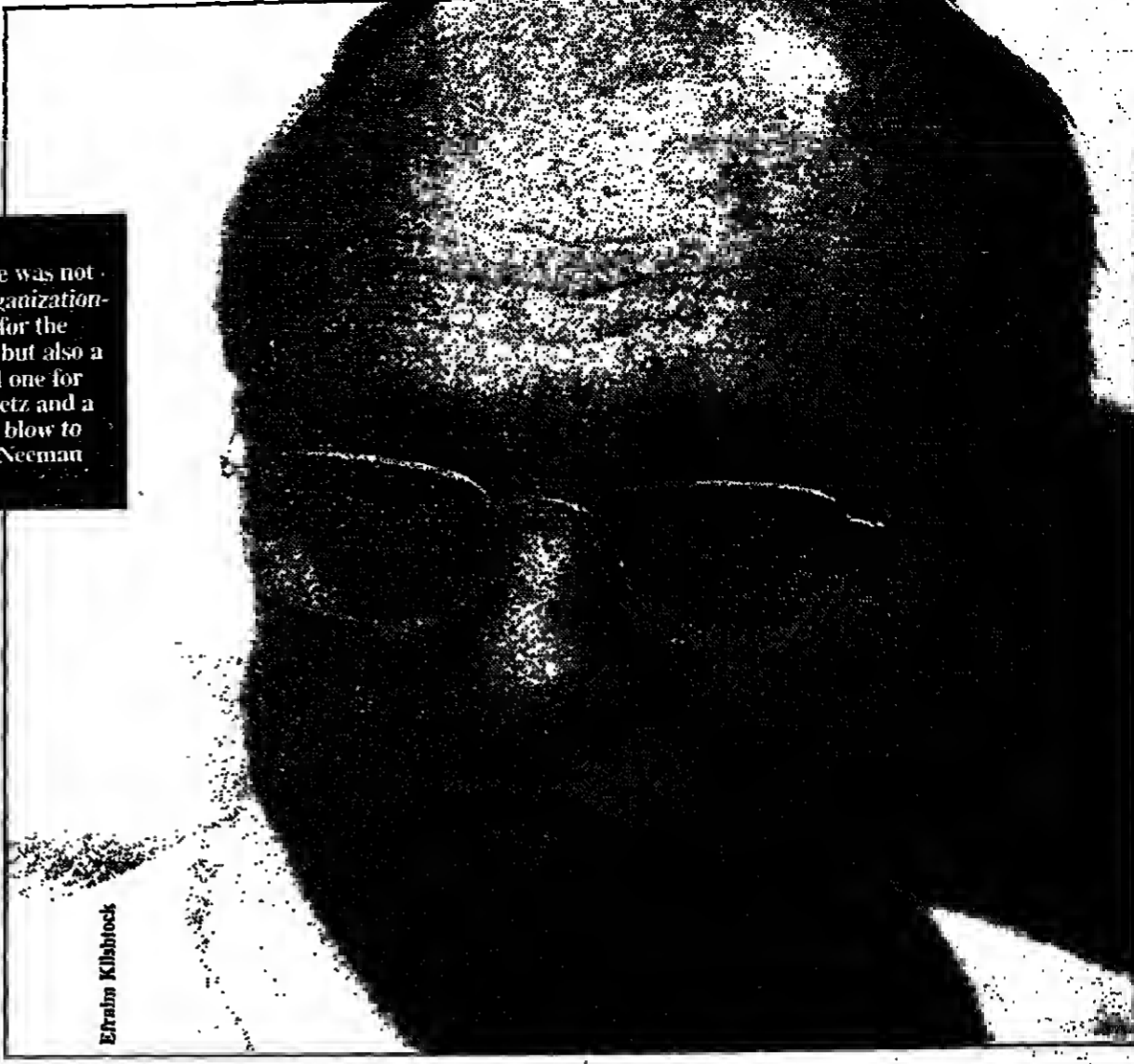
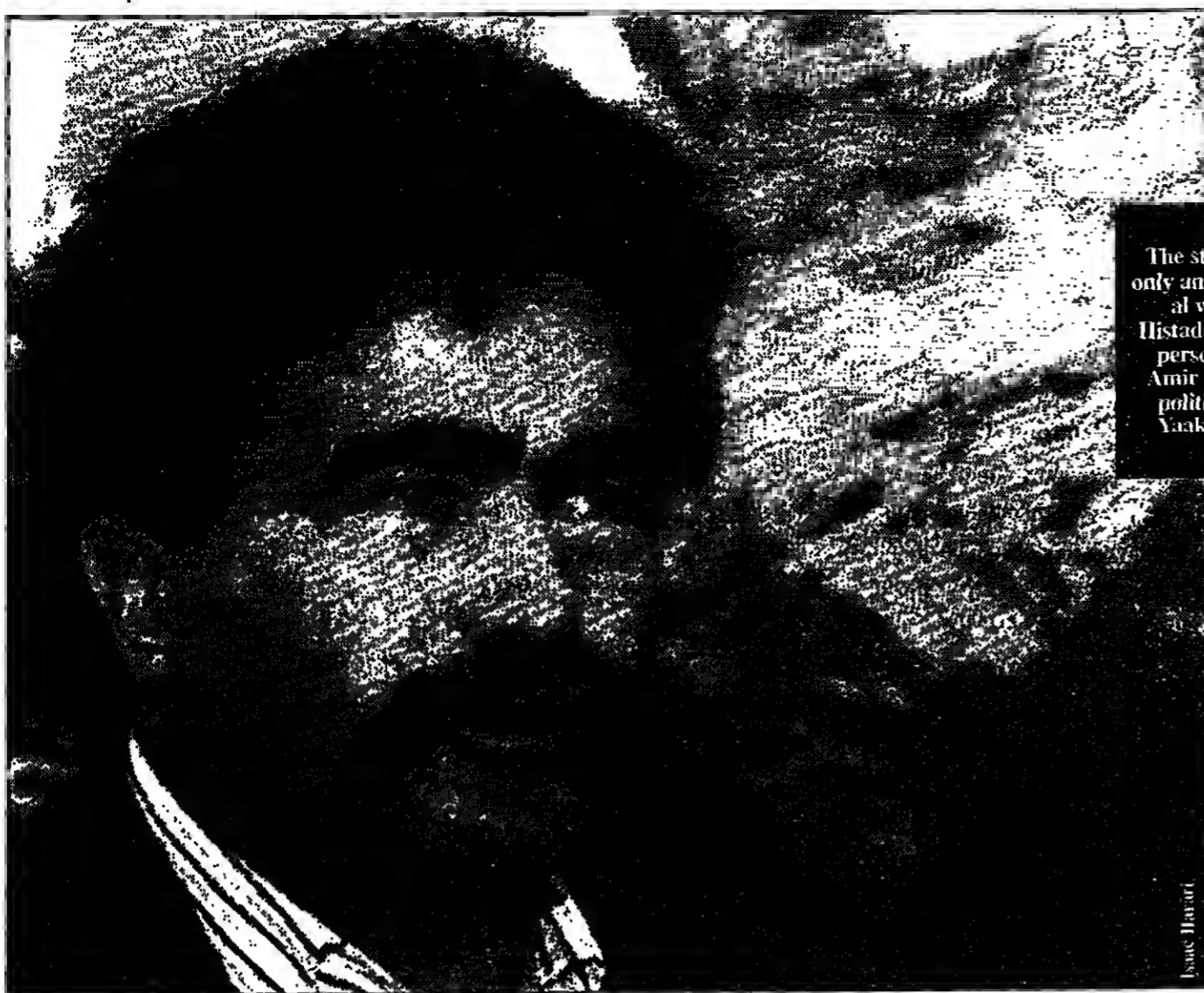
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The strike was not only an organizational win for the Histadrut but also a personal one for Amir Peretz and a political blow to Yaakov Neeman

Winners and losers in the Histadrut strike

After the Histadrut and the Finance Ministry agreed on Monday afternoon to settle the five-day general strike, it was as easy to tell the winners from the losers as it is from watching the faces in the opposing teams' locker rooms after the Super Bowl. A laughing Histadrut secretary-general Amir Peretz was being lifted on the shoulders of his lieutenants. Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and his aides sat looking like they'd been hit by a tornado.

The strike, in which the labor federation won most of its pension demands, was not only an organizational win for the Histadrut but also a personal one for Peretz. Meanwhile, it was a political loss not only for Neeman, but also for Prime Minister Netanyahu, said veteran political analyst Hana Kriстал.

As for Histadrut employees, there has always been a class divide between the highly-paid

workers and the poorly-paid ones. The strike, say analysts, was a victory for both classes, yet for different reasons. And most agree that one clear loser in the strike was the rule of law, which took a beating from both the Histadrut and the Finance Ministry.

Peretz comes out of the strike with greatly enhanced stature both within the 700,000-member labor federation, and within the Labor Party, which he also represents as an MK. His authority as Histadrut secretary-general has been vulnerable because he was not elected to the post, but rather inherited it from his predecessor, Labor MK Haim Ramon. Peretz hopes to put an end to any challenges in next June's Histadrut elections, and his management of the strike may have served to scare off all his potential opponents, the most prominent of whom is Gesher MK Maxim Levy.

"Today running against against

Amir Peretz has emerged as a major electoral asset for the Labor party. Yaakov Neeman will be weaker as he enters budget negotiations. And the big loser? The rule of law, Larry Derfner reports

Amir Peretz for the leadership of the Histadrut is like running against Roni Milo (for mayor) in Tel Aviv," Kriстал said.

On the political front, Kriстал says the success of the strike makes Peretz, a Moroccan immigrant from the Negev development town of Sderot, a major electoral asset; a powerful politician with a social and economic message that appeals to working-class Sephardi voters.

"Labor hasn't had such a personality in its ranks in a long time. David Levy used to fill this role

for the Likud, but he's since left it behind (to become foreign minister). Now the tables are turned — Labor has Peretz, and the Likud doesn't have an answer to him," Kriстал noted.

For Neeman, the story is reversed. He has enjoyed a reputation as a super-negotiator who was above party politics. But the strike "has brought him back down to earth," says Kriстал, who adds that Neeman is now weakened as he enters the government's budget negotiations. This will encourage Gesher, led by David Levy, in its

demands for funding for social programs. "Peretz showed David Levy how to negotiate with Neeman, and Levy doesn't intend to come back with less than Peretz got," Kriстал noted.

Neeman is an attorney, not an economist. He came into the Netanyahu cabinet in his desired capacity as justice minister, but lost that post when he was indicted on charges that he suborned a witness in the Aryeh Deri case. After he was acquitted, and Dan Meridor resigned as finance minister, Neeman took Meridor's

place. He now finds himself haggling day and night with union leaders. "This is not what he wants to do," said Kriстал.

If Neeman is as frustrated in the budget negotiations as he was in the strike, Kriстал said, "he could resign at the first opportunity. If Bibi tells him to give in on this, give in on that, Neeman won't allow himself to be mocked." And if Neeman resigns, it would be a severe blow to Netanyahu. "Since Avigdor Lieberman quit, Neeman is the only 'wise counselor' Netanyahu's got left, except for maybe [cabinet secretary] Danny Naveh," Kriстал noted.

One of the questions raised by the strike, and by the Histadrut's overall activities over the decades, was whether the labor federation was acting equally on behalf of all its members, including the low-paid, low-skilled clerks and factory workers, or whether it was principally concerned with its well-paid, well-protected employees in large, powerful locals like the Israel Electric Corp., Bezeq and El Al. This question became more pointed in the general strike as it was the leaders of the strong locals who were pushing Peretz hardest to take a militant stand.

According to Prof. Dan Jacobson of Tel Aviv University's Department of Labor Studies, the central principle of the strike — protecting the pension benefits of

workers who do not get their pensions from the state budget, but rather from private provident funds — was of interest only to the "middle-class and lower-class" among Histadrut workers, because employees of the strong locals enjoy pensions from the state budget. In this sense, the strike worked mainly for the benefit of the lower-paid Histadrut members, said Jacobson.

The compromise reached on the pension adjustment agreement signed by Peretz and former finance minister Avraham Shohat in May 1996 — an agreement Neeman was forced into honoring — also worked to the benefit of lower-paid employees, Jacobson noted.

"The leaders of the powerful locals were interested less in the substance of the strike and more in its larger significance. "Winning the strike meant that the Histadrut was alive and kicking," he said.

In decades past, the Histadrut had indeed been chiefly concerned with its well-heeled workers, Jacobson maintained. But the strike also won the labor federation recognition as a partner in talks with the Finance Ministry on such issues of concern to low-income groups as child welfare allowances, health care, minimum wage and unemployment policy.

See WINNERS, Page 22

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مركز المدينة

The General under fire

Labor chairman Ehud Barak comes under stinging criticism in his party for his one-man-show style of leadership, Sarah Honig reports

Labor chairman Ehud Barak plans to convene his party's MKs and other higher-ups this morning to ask them for forgiveness, for any unintentional slights he may have committed — much as he apologized to Sephardi voters for the alleged wrongdoings of the party's founding fathers.

The "make nice" tactic is expected to smooth ruffled feathers in Labor and end the unpleasantness he faced at the party convention which took Barak by great surprise this week, according to a source close to Barak.

Barak had expected no hitches at the single-day convention last Sunday in Tel Aviv. He has had his share of scrapes since he took over Labor in the summer, but has always managed to prevail. He had had no inkling that anything would be different this time around.

From Barak's point of view the earlier convention sittings were success stories. In the first he managed to prevent his predecessor and nemesis Shimon Peres from assuming the unprecedented title of party president. While he was accused of being mean-spirited and incapable of magnanimity in victory, Barak got away with it and got his way.

The second session in Netivot had no business at all on the agenda. It was merely a background prop that gave Barak a stage to recite his apology to the Sephardim and make a pitch for their votes.

The actual business was left for the third convention session this week, when Barak's pet plan of putting a director-general of his own choosing in charge of party affairs was supposed to come up for approval. Delegates were also expected to rubber stamp a choice of 1,250 delegates for the party's powerful central committee.

Barak made sure well in advance that not a single controversial issue would come up for a vote. He over-ruled a decision that decided the composition of the central committee would become so emotive a *casus belli*.

What happened this week, according to MK Dalia Itzik, "is no new development," alleging that Barak has angered many by behaving for months as if he owns the party.

The problem is that he had not realized just how much emotion was pent up in Labor. People are walking around with acute belly-aches, but Barak doesn't care. Perhaps he just is not interested in what people around him think, feel and say. He is not attuned," says Itzik.

"One of the most essential prerequisites of a democratic leader is that he hears others around him. If he holds on to power, insensitive to everyone, then he is no democrat," she says.

"Barak's problem may stem from his years in the military. He took off his uniform not so long ago and then entered politics with a red-carpet welcome," Itzik adds.

The late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin "practically begged Barak to join the government and he has been spoiled ever since. He won the party leadership without much viable competition and it all per-

haps went too quickly and easily for him," she says.

"In short," Itzik continues, "Barak climbed up the ladder too fast to master the fine art of democratic conduct."

"What happened at this convention is that people finally dared to express what was building up inside them all along. Labor's politicians have crossed the psychological barrier which thus far has kept them from attacking Barak. Up to now he has been placed on a pedestal and protected from much obvious criticism because he was seen as Labor's last great hope. Nothing was to be uttered or done that might chip away at his luster."

Itzik does not entirely discount the theory that Labor members may have been emboldened to

will all willingly and obediently play along as so much window dressing. We will all play the parts of extras which Barak has scripted for us and will be grateful to him for these roles," says Pines.

In his view, the very fact that "Barak called a convention which was supposed to automatically ratify all he wanted, without dealing with anything contentious betrays his attitude."

"He needed us only to applaud and approve. This week brought no departures from the way he was running the party up until now. The convention was just such a surreal absurd gathering that it was like the straw that broke the backs of most of us."

"We felt toyed with to be summoned to a convention, which, in the final analysis, was nothing but a total waste of time. We came to the boring function, which had no purpose and no message. Thousands of people were called out to say and do nothing. Despite all that is happening in the Likud, we aren't taking off. It would be a dreadful mistake for us to sit and wait for the Likud to self-destruct."

Labor's in-house political scientist MK Shevah Weiss, a former Knesset Speaker, agrees that "what is expected now is for Labor to seize the opportunity afforded by the Likud's internal troubles. But this is easier said than done. Barak's announcement of a fund-raising drive for the campaign of '98 is not enough. The wish itself will not advance elections." The fact is that while the Likud and Labor are very different in temperament, many of the same problems plague both. The basic ill must be ascribed to the change wrought by the direct elections system for prime minister. Weiss maintains.

Weiss contends that "this disastrous American import has radically changed that relationship between a party and its leader. Our old parliamentary system, which shaped our political thinking and expectations, is one in which the leader arises from the party and remains accountable to it. We now have a system in which we no longer deal with parties that have leaders. We are now encountering a situation in which a leader also has a party. He is elected in a separate primary and must wage a separate campaign for premiership."

"The party may have different interests and sometimes the divergent interests are even inimical to each other. For the prime ministerial candidate his party may well become either a pesky encumbrance or a damaging liability."

"The individual leaders' personalities aside, this is what accounts for the basic friction between Netanyahu and the Likud and between Barak and Labor. These leaders," Weiss observes, "are often beset by their parties and wish they could get them out of

the way."

This is precisely the state of affairs which MK Ephraim Sneh had in mind this week when he called on Barak to set up "a leadership panel of at least a dozen MKs. Even the primary winner cannot run for the premiership on his own, sweeping his party under the rug."

"If Barak has a withered, weakened, meaningless party behind him, he will fail, regardless of all the bravado and confident rhetoric. Barak is not all-knowing and he is not infallible. He will lose if he doesn't learn to consult and to accept advice."

"So far he has not asked for input and he has not listened when counseled," Sneh continues. "Our faction has seven MKs who are *ma'abarot* alumni. Barak went

entered the auditorium. In contrast to Barak, he won standing ovations and palpable affection — despite the controversial nature of his message, which was explicit support for a Palestinian state and a withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Nothing which Barak told the delegates generated any excitement. In the lobby, they were all up in arms about the alleged odious conspiracies of Ronni Bondi, Barak's right-hand man, who was popularly dubbed at the convention as Avigdor Lieberman's clone.

Bondi tried to pack the central committee with Barak loyalists, it was charged. To relieve some tension, Barak ended up agreeing to expand the committee to 2,000 members.

Barak's single victory at the session was on the director-general issue but his majority was so slim that presidium chairman David Liba'i pronounced it a loss. Only 665 delegates participated in the vote and Barak's proposal won by only a 20-vote



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"One of the most essential prerequisites of a democratic leader is that he hears others around him. If he holds on to power, insensitive to everyone, then he is no democrat"

—MK Dalia Itzik

same thing, there must be something to it. I spoke to Barak about setting up a leadership team and he told me that if he selects a dozen men...he will have hooded them, but they will actually have little to do, [since] we are in the opposition. While there will be 12 massaged egos, everyone else will be deeply offended."

"My answer to Barak was that he has no choice and that the leader must be able to cope with the frustrations of those left out of the coveted inner sanctum," Shohat says.

Those who appear certain to avoid exclusion from Barak's inner circle are two of Barak's most acerbic erstwhile foes — MK Yossi Beilin who ran against him in the primary and MK Haim Ramon who crossed swords with Barak in the 1996 elections campaign which they managed together.

They were the only two to admonish other faction members for their anti-Barak onslaught. The

consensus in Labor is that the two are trying to secure niches near the center of power.

Ramon especially has been counseling Barak about how to handle the party. The word in Labor is that the press conference early in the week, in which Barak declared that he is no dictator, was Ramon's idea.

The prediction in the party is that Ramon will prescribe more of the same for today's let-by-gones-by-gones session. But Barak must "engage in more than 'honorary' lip-service," Merom warns.

"There must be a real sincere overhaul in his attitude to the party."

"He must honestly accept that this is not a one-man operation and that we are not despised underlings. Otherwise his disingenuous blandishments will be every bit as ludicrous and lacking in credibility as his questionable apology to the Sephardim, when he bravely beat the breasts of deceased generations."

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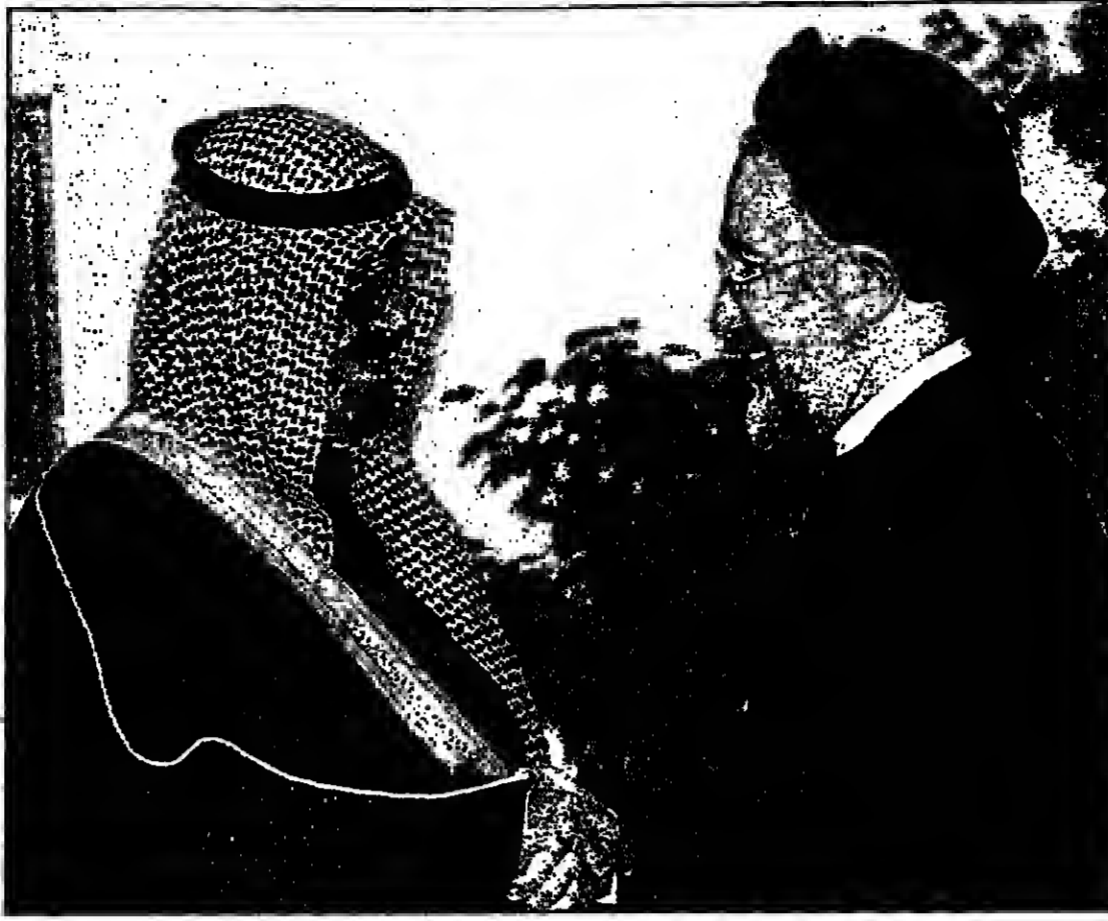
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Mixed messages from Teheran

Iran spared no effort to stake out a new image of respectability at this week's Islamic summit. But the new image turned out to be blurred, writes Abraham Rabinovich

Visitors calling on the late leader of Iran's Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, were received in a tiny, spartan room — a setting befitting the head of a revolutionary movement which had abjured the glittering trappings of modernity for true faith. The guests arriving for this week's Islamic conference in Teheran were received by his successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in an atmosphere of lavishness that evoked comparisons to the most hedonistic conjurings of the late shah. In the two months preceding the conference, thousands of engineers and workmen working round the clock in four shifts constructed six luxury hotels and a magnificent conference hall. In addition, to accommodate visiting beads of state they restored palaces belonging to the shah and his family to a standard said to be even more luxurious than the original. Iran's leading architects were employed in the project for which the Iranian parliament had approved a massive budget of 250 million rials. For long a pariah state, even to much of the Arab world because of its use of state terror and its presumption of Islamic leadership, Iran spared no effort this week to stake out a new image of respectability by hosting a conference which drew representatives from 55 Islamic countries from

East Asia to North Africa. The new image turned out to be striking but blurred. President Mohammed Khatami, the white hope of those who seek a turning to moderation in Iran, delivered a remarkable speech calling for an "Islamic civil society" and saying that that Islam had much to learn from the West. However, a contrary message was delivered by Supreme Leader Khomeini who focused on the "global arrogance" of the West. "Until now it's all been cosmetics, not substance" said Hebrew University Professor Emanuel Sivan of the conference. Iran has not resolved any of its disputes even with its Arab neighbors, including disputes with the Emirates over islands in the Gulf. It has not, Sivan noted, revoked the death sentence against author Salman Rushdie, nor responded to signals from European countries that imprisoned Iranian terrorists would be released if Teheran publicly pledges never to repeat its assassination attempts on foreign soil. The conflicting nature of the speeches made by Khomeini and Khatami reflected deep differences within Iranian society — revolutionary zeal versus intellectual openness. The one theme the two leaders could agree on was hostility towards Israel. Even Khatami attacked "the racist, aggressive and violent nature of the Zionist regime." Prof. David Menashri, who



Iranian President Mohammed Khatami (right) with Saudi Foreign Minister Crown Prince Abdullah at the Islamic summit. (AP/Canadian Press)

holds the Nazarin Chair for Modern Iranian Studies at Tel Aviv University, notes that "animosity towards Israel and the US has become such an important symbol that any retreat could affect the prestige of the revolution." Khatami did indeed soften the rhetoric towards the US but Israel continued to serve the Iranian leadership as an unfaded red flag. Nevertheless, the growing internal debate between moderates and conservatives in Iran, Israeli experts agree, may lead to changes

that will ultimately affect attitudes towards Israel as well. "There are no basic differences between Israel and Iran — not strategically, politically or historically," says Menashri. "The Iranian regime has tried to turn the Palestinian issue into a major symbol of the revolution and a rallying point. But now that the Palestinians are negotiating with Israel there are questions being asked in Iran about the wisdom of trying to be more pious than Arafat. There is a soul-searching process under way. We have to wait and see how this process matures." Reuven Merhav, counselor at the Israeli embassy in Teheran from 1974 until the downfall of the shah in 1978, notes the growing disaffection among broad sections of the Iranian population towards the regime of the clerics. "Khatami was elected mainly by women and young people," he points out. There is unrest even among senior clerics like Grand Ayatollah Mousa-Ali Montazeri, one of the fathers of the revolution, who was placed under house arrest after calling for an end to clerical rule. A leading Islamic philosopher, Abdel Karim Sorush, likewise incurred the regime's wrath when

he called for separation of mosque and state. "All this is happening," says Merhav, "against the background of a conference, including 30 heads of state, that no one five years ago thought could take place in Iran. Certainly not with this kind of internal controversy going on." Israeli experts relate to the prospects for change in Iran with varying degrees of hope. "The expectation is that liberalization within Iran will eventually lead to changes in foreign policy as well," says Sivan. "But that's a long-term affair and I think exaggerated hopes have been placed on Khatami." Merhav believes there is room for "cautious optimism," although Menashri says he is unaware of any signal that Israel has received from Teheran that would encourage hopes for change. "But the situation obliges Israel to closely follow developments without bias and if necessary, to reevaluate its policies." There can be little doubt that Israel will be observing Iran from now on not just as a patron of Islamic militancy and a potential nuclear threat but as a society that may be searching for a new identity.

A 'moderate' voice

Excerpts from the speech by Iranian president Mohammed Khatami at the opening of the Islamic Summit Conference this week in Teheran:

Our predicament is that the Islamic Ummah (nation), once a flag-bearer of knowledge, thought and civilization, has in recent centuries elapsed into weakness and backwardness and worse still has even failed, due to the consequent painful state of passivity vis-a-vis the ostentatious dominant civilization of the time, to properly utilize the fruits of its civilization. Our centuries-old passivity is the outcome of the decline of a once-shining humane civilization whose achievements and remnants are still praiseworthy and to which the dominant world civilization is truly indebted. Today, the replication of the old civilization is neither possible, for its time is long gone, nor desirable even if it were possible. Civilizations continue to live as long as they possess the capacity to respond to the ever-renewing questions and the ever-changing needs of man, otherwise they are doomed to demise. The questions and needs of man in our time are in many ways different from those of our predecessors. Our passivity in recent centuries in the face of Western civilization — which is itself a natural response to the quest of Western man — is due to the fact that for various reasons we have ceased to question. The absence of questioning leads to the absence of thought which in turn leads to inevitable passivity and subjugation vis-a-vis others.

The passivity and backwardness of the Moslem countries, nevertheless, the mere happy reminder that we can transform our destiny is a matter of elation. We must dedicate ourselves to the realization of the "Islamic civil society" in our respective countries. [This] is fundamentally different from the "civil society" that is rooted in Greek philosophical thinking and Roman political tradition. The two, however, are not necessarily in conflict. We should never be oblivious to judicious acquisition of the positive accomplishments of Western civil society. Taking abode in the "common Islamic home" does not mean regression, withdrawal from the modern world or seeking conflict with others. On the contrary, it is only after such a return to the common identity that we can live in peace with other peoples and nations.

"The absence of questioning leads to the absence of thought which in turn leads to inevitable passivity and subjugation vis-a-vis others"

The government [in an Islamic civil society] is the servant of the people. Our civil society is not a society in which only Muslims are entitled to rights and are considered citizens. The rejection of domination means the rejection of force and duplicity in relations with other nations and their replacement with logic and the principle of mutual respect in international relations. History shows that no peace has ever embraced success without justice and consideration for the aspirations of the people concerned. As the crisis in the Middle East has made clear, genuine peace can be established only through the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the inalienable right to self-determination, return of refugees, liberation of the occupied territories, in particular al-Quds [Jerusalem]. It is a fact, though, that the hegemonic, racist, aggressive and violent nature of the Zionist regime, amply manifested in systematic and gross violation of the international law, pursuit of state terrorism and developments of weapons of mass destruction, seriously threatens peace and security in the region.

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MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

After watching helplessly while a succession of fascists tarnished our most prestigious institutions, the false-information scandal finally can offer some of the relief, pride and hope which we have grown to miss.

In the nightmarish year which is drawing to a close we saw two soldier-laden IAF helicopters collide with each other; the GSS groping in the dark to identify a few terrorists' bodies; the Shayetet 13 naval commando unit losing in one battle more warriors than it had since its creation; and the Mossad flunking it big-time while trying to eliminate a pedestrian on a Jordanian sidewalk.

Understandably, one is tempted to add to this depressing checklist our once glorious spy agency's apparent failure to notice that a substance it had been gulping for two decades was actually toxic.

And yet, disheartening though the phenomenon he represents may be, at the end of the day

Sleeping with the enemy

Yehuda Gil's assessments were dismissed, first by prime minister Shimon Peres who didn't buy the now-disgraced agent's reading into Syria's political aims, then by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who rejected Gil's exegesis of Syrian military moves.

Ever shrouded by well-molded James Bondian veneers of charm, courage, wit and violence, spies have traditionally set laymen's imaginations-on fire and swept romantics off their feet.

And yet, even legendary spies — from Dutch dancer Mata Hari, who in World War I milked, fed and slept with a host of Allied and German officials until she was shot by the French, to "Cicero," the servant in Britain's Turkish Embassy who leaked to Germany the plans for D-Day in return for a hefty payment (in counterfeit bills) — never changed the course of history.

In fact, spies have time and again failed to see the forest beyond the trees. Even the scout contingent dispatched to Canaan by the wandering Israelites erred colossally in its majority's report that the Promised Land was impregnable and prone to "eat up the inhabitants thereof."

IN THE winter of 1968, I attended a senior intelligence researcher's

lecture at the Foreign Ministry. The subject was Mikhail Gorbachev's new policies.

"This whole perestroika [economic reform] business is a PR campaign," he assured us. "And as for Jewish emigration, the floodgates are nowhere near bursting open, and at any rate I'd be exaggerating if I said that the overall potential we're talking about exceeds the neighborhood of 100,000 people." One must now blush at the thought of just how soon and how grandly those sweeping statements were proven unfounded.

Similarly, US spies failed to foresee the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Mossad had no inkling of the Syrian-Egyptian attack in 1973, the KGB scoffed at the Islamic obstacle in Afghanistan, Britain's intelligence didn't anticipate the Falklands invasion, the GSS did not predict the intifada, and the CIA failed to forecast Khomeini's rise to power, not to mention communism's wholesale collapse.

These failures of insight are so glaring, abysmal and common that decision-makers would do well to refrain from leading an ear to intelligence services' pretentious analyses about where the enemy — let alone the world — is bound. Instead, they should dwell exclusively on the tactical, and let the broader picture be assembled by

real scholars.

The day Konstantin Chernenko died in 1985, Hebrew University Sovietologist Amnon Sela gave us a lecture on the history of the Red Army. Asked where the USSR was bound, he answered cautiously: "If that Gorbachev guy gets the appointment, then it's a new beginning, whereby the Soviets' economic weaknesses will have to be treated amid increasingly open ethnic strife."

It was a modest intellectual's well-studied, and ultimately vindicated, insight, which quietly contradicted arrogant, budget-gobbling spy agencies which contended that the world would continue to be split along that dated East-West axis, which defined the Cold War era in which they were shaped.

Spies should be expected to tell us how many tanks are lurking beyond that mountain ridge, what a certain individual's schedule looks like, or how a particular airport is guarded. They can also be good for kidnapping Adolf Eichmann or Mustafa Dirani, killing Fathi Shkaki or Abu Jihad, or stealing documents from US officials, as Jonathan Pollard did, or from the Kremlin, as the Mossad had done with Khrushchev's secret speech, which heralded his de-Stalinization policy.

But when it comes to analyzing strategic orientations, sensing political shifts, deciphering mental codes, or detecting social undercurrents, spies are useless. The delicate surgery these assessments entail are not what these naturally rough-hewn guys were meant to do, and the Pacific conclusions they may lead to might mean, for them, institutional extinction.

IT IS NO coincidence that former Mossad agent Yitzhak Shamir, former CIA chief George Bush and former KGB boss Andrei Andropov ended up as failed national leaders. Shamir led Israel into the intifada by rejecting the London agreement with Jordan, Bush spent his time haunting wars in Panama and Iraq while failing to realize that the voters would judge him on the economy, and Andropov's cure for the USSR's sclerotic economy was to cut vodka production and have detectives herd pedestrians to work.

Apparently, spies tend to develop an us-and-them mindset that hampers their ability to understand domestic issues and leaves them confused in the face of changing realities: Good thing, then, that no one listened to the Mossad's insights into Syria's grand intentions: next time let's not even ask.

Dry Bones



MOVIE REVIEW



By RABEA OHLOMO PUSKUN

Through the eyes of a father

"Jacob thus came to his father at Mamre, at Kiryat Arba, better known as Hebron..." (Gen 35:27)

At which point in his life does Jacob reach maturity? One suggestion is that it happened the night he wrestled with the mysterious stranger and received the new appellation Israel. (32:29) But if so, why does it take three more chapters until he is ready to return to his father's house, chapters which include the massacre of the residents of Shechem and the transgression of Reuben? The Jacob who prayed that God "return him in peace to his father's house" at the beginning of his journey (28:21) ought not have dallied so long before returning home.

I would suggest that maturity consists of two things: first of all, a proud sense of self identity and, secondly — but not second in importance — the ability to transcend filial relationships and sibling rivalries. Jacob's is the most carefully delineated of the patriarchal personalities.

In the first instance, Jacob had difficulty expressing his true personality. The Bible informs us: "Esau was a man who knew how to (en)trap, a man of the fields; and Jacob was a wholehearted man, a dweller in tents." (Gen 25:27) Whereas Esau is naive and disingenuous, Esau is deceptive and forth-tongued; whereas Jacob is a student who labors to acquire knowledge, Esau is a hunter who amasses objects.

The very next verse is the source of much familial tragedy: "And Isaac loved Esau because the trap was in his mouth, and Rebecca loved Jacob." (25:28) Every child, no matter how old or accomplished, yearns for parental approval. Hence one can hardly blame Jacob for believing that if he were only more worldly, smooth of tongue and rich like Esau, perhaps his father would begin to love him more. From this perspective, Jacob's willingness to pose as Esau becomes much more understandable.

It is now more understandable why Jacob sets out with such alacrity for Laban; he hopes to learn the "tricks of the trade." This is the force behind the verse: "And Isaac sent Jacob, and he [Jacob] went to Padan Aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, mother of Jacob and Esau." (28:5) For Jacob, this is not only an escape from Esau; it is also — and primarily — a journey in search of his father's love.

Jacob succeeds in out-Labanning Laban in the art of deception, and becomes a wealthy man. However, with the birth of his beloved Joseph and his desire that his favored son attain spiritual heights, Jacob realizes that he is not Esau, that his fundamental personality is that of the wholehearted student of Torah, and that he must be true to himself. Jacob is now ready to hear the Divine voice urging him to leave Laban. (31:13)

He wrestles with a being that our sages identify as the power or spirit of Esau; I would suggest that he successfully exorcises the dybbuk of Esau that is threaten-

A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHEN

How Israel earned that name

The name Jacob/Ya'acov is one of many biblical names for which the Tanach gives or hints at a meaning.

God renames Patriarch Avram, Jacob's grandfather, "Avraham/ Abraham," because "I have made you the father of a multitude of nations" (Genesis 17:5). Abraham and his wife, Sarah, in turn, name their son Yitzhak/Isaac, a name that is related to the root of laugh/laughter, the letters yod-dalet-hey-kof. The Torah implies they so named him because Sarah laughed when she overheard the angel tell Abraham she would conceive at age 90 (Genesis 18:12), and because after giving birth to Isaac she said God had made her a laughingstock for bearing a child at her age (Genesis 21:6).

Isaac and his wife, Rebecca, in turn, name the younger of their twin sons Ya'acov/Jacob because, the Torah implies, when he and his twin brother, Esau, were born, his hand "had hold of Esau's heel" (Genesis 25:27). "Heel" in Hebrew is "akev," which is composed of the last three letters of

the name of the land they inherited. The classical Hebrew designations Am Yisrael/the People Israel and just Yisrael/Israel mean "the Jewish people" and not just the biblical or modern state of Israel or their denizens.

THE SURNAME Vaknin/Waknin, common among Jews from Morocco, is a Berber diminutive of the Hebrew Ya'acov. According to the Interior Ministry's Population Registry, 5,836 Israeli Jews bore this name in 1995, ranking it 57th among the 200 most common surnames in Israel listed in Avraham Ariel's *Sefer Hashemot* ("The Book of Names," Defense Ministry Publishing House, 1997). Ya'acov itself ranks 29th, with 7,604 bearers.

The first recorded "Vaknin" appears in the name of the rabbi/physician/poet Yosef ben Yehuda ben Shimon ben Vaknin (1160-1226), who was born at Ceuta, Morocco.

It is one of several score derivatives of or forms in which Ya'acov appears.

Some other examples are Jacobs(c)u in the various Anglo-Saxon and Germanic dialects, borne by both Jews and non-Jews; Yakobovitch (Jacobowitz/Jakobovits) (Jacobovsky (Jacobowsky) and Yankelovitch/wicz in the Slavic dialects; Hagiopian in Arucanian, borne by both Jews and non-Jews; Yakovshvili in Georgian; Jakobescu/Jakobovici in Romanian; Ya'acov(itz), mainly

among Jews from the southern reaches of the former Soviet Union (145th in Ariel's list); Ya'acobi (Jacobus/Jacobs; 178th). Several surprising and interesting derivatives are listed by Edwin Lawson, emeritus professor of psychology at the State University of New York at Fredonia and past president of the American Name Society, in a paper on "Jacob and His Sons: Their Impact on Hebrew and Jewish Onomastics." He reads the paper at the 25th Annual Names Institute in New York City last year, and it is to appear in the Athens-based *Onomata* journal.

One of the derivatives he lists is the surname Kaufman(n). It means "buyer" in German, and is thought to indicate that its original bearers were merchants. According to Ben Zion Kaganoff's *Dictionary of Jewish Names and Their History* (NY, Schocken, 1977), however, it really stems from Ya'acov via Yakovman, through Yakofman and Kofman.

The Jewish surname Kafka also stems from Ya'acov, via the diminutive Koppel, through Kopke, and Kapke. Koppel also gives us such names as Kopeloff and Kopelovitch(witz).

Another interesting byproduct is the surname Worn/Worn(s). This is inspired by Isaiah 41:13-14: "...I, God, your God, am holding your hand, saying to you, 'Fear not... you worry Jacob...'"

Another is Tam, inspired by Genesis 25:27: "...Jacob was a tam [simple, innocent, quiet] person, a

ten-sinner."

Ya'acov also gives us, via the Latin Jacobus/Jacomus, the Anglo James(on), Jamie (male and female), and Jim(my), the Spanish and Portuguese Jaime (pronounced Ha-ee-may), the Scottish Hamish, and the Irish and Scots Gaelic Seamus/Shamus/Semmas.

A few other derivatives are the French Jacques and Jacqueline; the Italian Giacomo; and the Welsh Iago; the Cornish Jago (*Bloomsbury Dictionary of First Names* by Julia Cresswell, London, 1992).

Lawson has published a 70-page annotated bibliography on "Some Jewish Personal Names" in the recently published *These Are the Names* (Ramat Gan, Bar-Ilan University Press). This contains nine of the 22 papers delivered at the First International Conference on Jewish Onomastics held at Bar-Ilan four years ago, and was edited by Bar-Ilan history professor Aaron Demsky, Dr. Yosef Reif and Prof. Yosef Tabor.

In an article on "Names and No-Names in Ruth," Demsky concludes that the author of the Book of Ruth, by his choice of names "has skillfully developed a historical tradition about [King] David's ancestors into a story of human kindness, transcending a tale of personal tragedy into a universal significance with universal implications for the fellowship of humanity."

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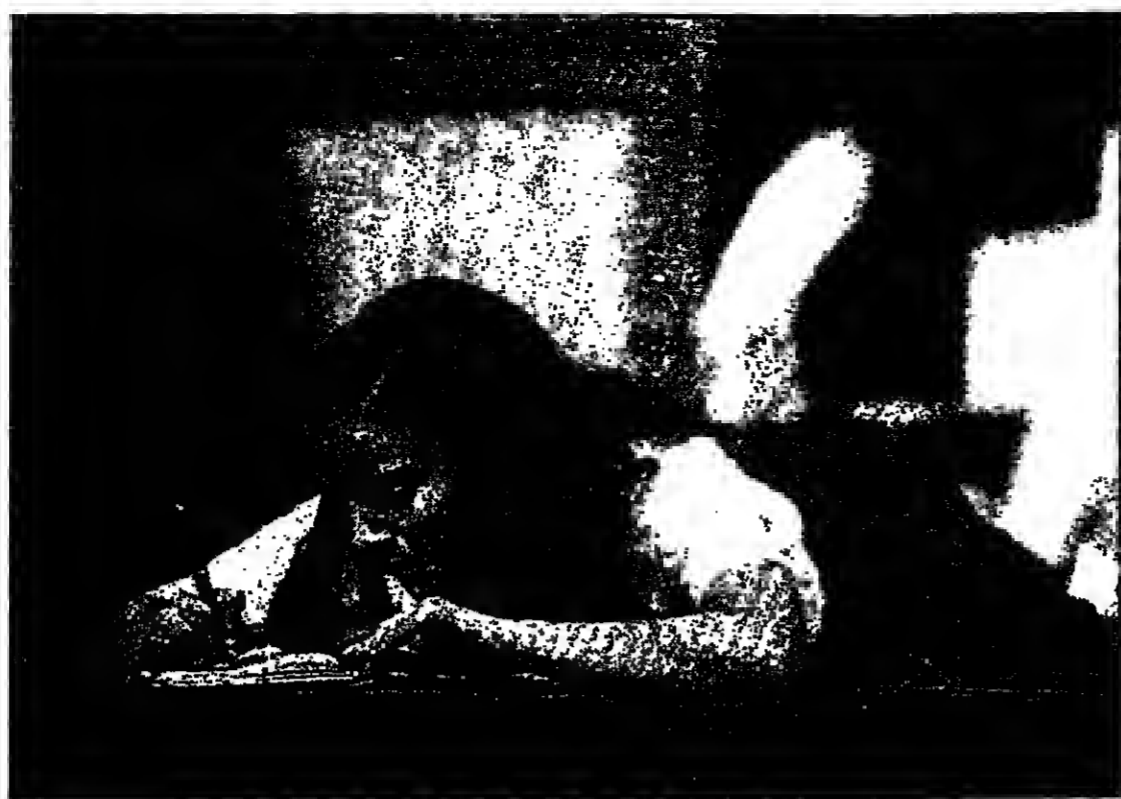
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A new Anne takes the stage

Broadway's 'The Diary of Anne Frank' is more Jewish and more sombre than the earlier version, writes Marilyn Henry



Israeli-born actress Natalie Portman in the new Broadway production of 'The Diary of Anne Frank'

Anne Frank returned to Broadway last week, and a friend of mine immediately bought tickets to take her young son. He will meet an Anne with a profoundly different message from that of her predecessor on stage and screen, the Anne that I met more than 30 years ago.

The original 1955 script by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, was a saccharine character who was only minimally Jewish. She was portrayed as an inspirational, idealistic teenager whose enduring message to theater- and moviegoers was an impossibly optimistic belief that "in spite of everything, people are really good at heart."

The generation meeting the 1997 Anne, as written by Wendy Kesselman, finds a burdened child who is keenly aware of the horrors committed just beyond the attic. "I feel wicked sleeping in a warm bed when my friends are at the mercy of the cruelest monsters ever to walk the earth - and all because they are Jews," says

the original 1955 script by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, was a saccharine character who was only minimally Jewish. She was portrayed as an inspirational, idealistic teenager whose enduring message to theater- and moviegoers was an impossibly optimistic belief that "in spite of everything, people are really good at heart."

Anne, who is beautifully played by an Israeli-born actress, Natalie Portman, the 16-year-old granddaughter of Auschwitz survivors. "I feel the suffering of millions." This is a significant and gratifying difference: less optimism, more realism. But it is not enough to carry the play. No play, of course, can do justice to the diary, but this one tries to force too much material into two acts. The effect often seems like a smorgasbord of one-liners that hint at profound thoughts and situations without revealing them.

Unlike the earlier script, which sanitized the ethnic background of the eight Jews hiding in the attic, the Kesselman play is emphatically Jewish. Fragments of Judaism occur at nearly regular intervals. In one especially powerful scene, when the Franks and van Daans arrive at the attic and remove their coats, Anne rips the yellow star from her black sweater. But a shadow of the star remains, its exaggerated image seared into the faded cloth.

GRAPEVINE BY GREETLY CASHMAN Christmas queries

Although there is little evidence of Christmas in Israel, let it not be said that Israelis are not conscious of it. Elizabeth Scholes, first secretary, and Louise Miller, information assistant at the British Embassy, can testify to that. Last Christmas, despite a message on the embassy switchboard explicitly directing British citizens in dire straits to emergency numbers they could call, Scholes received several phone calls from Israelis wanting to know when shops reopened in London after Christmas. This year, Miller has already received countless calls from Israelis wanting to know the dates of Christmas sales.

Greek Consul-General George Marcantonatos kicked up their heels in a lively display of traditional Greek dancing. The diplomats, who were attending a dinner hosted by the Cyprus Tourism Board, maintained their decorum for the longest possible time but



Robin Andrew Kealy, the new British consul-general (Bochicho)

IT WON'T be an auction, but it will bring in a lot of money. One of the largest gatherings of royals in New York is expected at Sotheby's this Monday at a gala champagne reception and dinner to benefit the Mentor Foundation, an independent, privately funded, apolitical organization established to reduce the demand for drugs among the world's young people. Mentor raises money and transfers knowledge to enable other organizations to operate more effectively "to help the helpless." Among those attending will be Queen Silvia of Sweden, Queen Noor of Jordan, Crown Prince Henri of Luxembourg, Crown Prince Felipe of Spain, Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Prince Dmitri of Yugoslavia, Crown Prince Pavlos of Greece and Crown Princess Marie-Chantal of Greece. Chairing the glittering event is Mrs. Alfred Taubman, wife of the chairman of Sotheby's who, though not exactly a blue-blood, is a royal of sorts. Prior to her marriage, she was known as Yehudit Mizrahi and was an Israeli beauty queen.



Jeanette Yehudayan-Rothstein returns to Persia through song

After a nine-year absence in the US, actress Caroline Langford returned to Israel this week to explore some showbiz options. Langford has been living in Manhattan, where she operated a pet-care service. She opted to work with dogs rather than on the entertainment circuit because "I didn't want to start at the bottom of the ladder again. My ego wouldn't take it." In New York, said Langford, who is here with her two-year-old daughter Daniella, people pay a lot to have their dogs walked every day. Langford didn't walk the dogs herself but had hired helpers to exercise her canine clientele. Now, Langford says, she's definitely going back into showbiz.

once nearly everyone else in the room got up to join the circle, they dispensed with convention and proved to be even more talented than the professional dancers flown in for the occasion.

MUSIC is the best medicine according to pharmacologist Jeanette Yehudayan-Rothstein who, at a national convention of Lemait health fund pharmacists in Ramat Gan, provided the entertainment. Born in Tiberias, Rothstein, who at the age of 12 came to Israel alone and was educated at Kfar Hassidim and the Hebrew University, distanced herself from her Persian background until after her marriage. In 1985, during a year's stay in West Africa with her husband, the music of her childhood caught up with her, and this started the process of reconciliation. A talented singer, she began collecting, classifying, studying and performing different types of Persian music. She has appeared with her Shiraz band at numerous festivals and on radio and television. When the opportunity to perform for her professional peers presented itself, she simply raised her voice in song.

QUITTING a number of newcomers have joined the local diplomatic community. Among them is Robin Andrew Kealy CMG, who two days ago took up his appointment as British consul-general in Jerusalem, succeeding Richard Dalton. This is Kealy's fourth posting in the region, having served in Baghdad, Kuwait and Tripoli. His most recent appointment, however, was on home turf. He just spent two years as head of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Aviation and Maritime Department in London. Before that, he was director of trade promotion at the British Embassy in Paris.

HAIFA UNIVERSITY chairman Lord Jacobs, who was recently elevated to the peerage, was feted by his friends Ana and Eli Schalit of Caesarea, who held a reception in his honor attended by numerous industrialists, business executives, and high-ranking academics.

WHEN Cypriots and Greeks get together, you can expect the dust to fly. At least that's what happened this week at a dinner at the Hyatt Hotel Jerusalem where the new ambassador for Cyprus, Euripides Evriadiades, and

AFTER all the money she spent on her plastic surgery, Dolly Parton is, to put it mildly, crestfallen. All that costly and careful reconstruction of face and body came apart at the seams, and that great facelift has plummeted. The eternal optimist, Parton believes that hers is a case in which Humpty Dumpty can be put together again.

The Stolen Legacy of Anne Frank / Magazine Page 20

blooming sexuality, many of which had been jettisoned by Otto Frank from the earlier version of the diary. But, their addition seems to be Kesselman's bow to political correctness, rather than a meaningful addition to the script. These tales of puberty seem to be just one more element to shoehorn into the two acts.

Instead, the play ends in a tragic juxtaposition of contrasts: When the Nazis barge in, Anne, Margot and Peter Van Daan are in another room, happily gorging on fresh strawberries. It is their laughter that betrays them to the Nazis.

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Quarrelling pets (3,3,3)
- Number at Welsh resort (5)
- Don Brook creation that is turned by hand (8)
- Sailor Bill uses half of the old counter (6)
- Legendary works each containing identical Roman figures (4)
- Spread all round city an area... (8)
- Drink cocktail, looking wooden (4)
- The intellectual had for example double trouble (7)
- Account of refined 17 at Yarmouth school (7)
- Little woman left an alcoholic radical (4)
- Note with regret not all are revolting (8)
- Pop group making a come-back unchanged (4)
- Island paradise wherein a number take a German title (6)
- Thrash, thrash, thrash (8)
- Way to acquire wood store (5)
- Wendy Sade went berserk yesterday (9)
- Henry's on to a case which causes devastation (5)
- It's senseless to dispose of foreign capital (6)
- Paradise so long as beasts don't get toothache (8)
- Grave nothing! The French take a chance with it (7)
- Recollected having been summoned again (8)
- How long does a boxing match last? Too long! (5,4)
- Non-clerical member of US city is in charge (4)
- Appeal to Catherine for approval (4)
- Make situation worse for a Girl Guide initially, Virginia, in class (9)
- Dame fell over cheese (4)
- Eel sheds constructed despite the dangers (8)
- One who petitions for wild animal caught outside (8)
- Cereal food that is eaten by errant males (7)
- Admits possessing (4)
- Cook what a follower could get? (6)
- Sounds metal, Rob! (5)

DOWN

- 1 Error (5)
- Makes longer (7)
- Girl's name (5)
- Fat (6)
- Power source (7)
- Correct (5)
- Feared greatly (7)
- Not fact (7)
- Blow up (7)
- Deer (7)
- Notice (6)
- Leg joint (5)
- Russian summer house (5)
- Full (5)

Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Cereal, 4 Eels, 8 Apple, 9 Iceland, 10 Teenage, 11 Lake, 12 Eel, 24 Vera, 15 Addie, 18 Net, 21 Bare, 23 Overseas, 25 Eubella, 26 Doubt, 27 Budge, 28 Eretal.
DOWN: 1 Chaste, 2 Replete, 3 American, 4 Ewed, 5 Teams, 6 Sudden, 7 Hage, 13 Levandos, 16 Disrupt, 17 Church, 19 Total, 20 Mental, 22 Rabbit, 24 Glee.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Emotion (7)
- Table (5)
- Undo (5)
- Utter (7)
- Bicycles for two (7)
- Finished (5)
- Fix (6)
- Cross-breed (6)
- Bulldog clip (5)
- Eternal (7)
- Irritating (7)
- or crumb (5)
- Female relative (5)
- Showed gratitude (7)

DOWN

- Error (5)
- Makes longer (7)
- Girl's name (5)
- Fat (6)
- Power source (7)
- Correct (5)
- Feared greatly (7)
- Not fact (7)
- Blow up (7)
- Deer (7)
- Notice (6)
- Leg joint (5)
- Russian summer house (5)
- Full (5)

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TECHNICAL WRITING (evening session)	33	99	Sun., Tue., Thur., 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Feb. 29	Sun., Tue., Thur., 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Jan. 8
WEB PUBLISHING	16	48	Wednesdays 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	Apr. 22	Wednesdays 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	Feb. 4
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CNE Regular Track (7 courses)	82	159	Mon. & Wed. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Mar. 9	Tue. & Thur. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	June 4
WINDOWS NT MOSE Express Track (6 courses)	28	224	Tue. & Thur. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Feb. 3	Mon. & Wed. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Feb. 2
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VISUAL C++	10	30	Mon. 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Feb. 23	Mon. 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Dec. 8
VISUAL BASIC	10	30	Mon. 12 noon - 3 p.m.	Jan. 5	Wed. 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.	Jan. 7
C/C++ PROGRAMMING	22	90	Sun. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Mar. 15	Sun. 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Jan. 11
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HAYARKON, 3, LUXURIOUS, OPPOSITE Sea 5th floor, furnished, parking, Bella Tel. 03-655-8757. [13807]

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LUXURY APARTMENTS AND penthouses in the Opera Tower, available immediately. Call now to Dana, Tel. 03-549-8498, 052-536-667, [138018]

Vertical strip of real estate advertisements on the right edge of the page, including 'RAVANA', 'QUALITY REAL ESTATE', and 'CHANA KRISTAL REALTY'.

Orlando snaps losing streak against Chicago



FORWARD MOTION - Bulls forward Toni Kukoc is pressured by Magic forward Charles Oudlaw during first-quarter action.

ORLANDO (AP)—Rony Seikaly scored 24 of his 26 points in the second half and Orlando made 21 of 23 free throws in the fourth quarter to end its 11-game losing streak against Chicago with a 106-98 victory Wednesday night.

The Magic, who hadn't beaten the Bulls since November 14, 1995, did it without leading scorer Penny Hardaway, who underwent arthroscopic surgery on his left knee earlier in the day and will be sidelined 8 to 10 weeks.

Michael Jordan struggled from the field, going 6-for-17. He was 13-of-13 at the foul line and finished with 25 points. Toni Kukoc scored 24 and Ron Harper 20 for the Bulls.

Celtics 96, Bucks 91
Travis Knight had 13 points and 10 rebounds and made two free throws with 9.7 seconds left to help host Boston stop its five-game losing streak.

Hornets 104, Wizards 101
The host Hornets blew a 17-point lead in the fourth quarter before rallying past Washington, which was playing several hours after teammates Tracy Murray and Rod Strickland exchanged blows.

Cavaliers 102, Nuggets 83
Wesley Person scored 18 points and Shawn Kemp 17 as host Cleveland won its ninth straight.

Raptors 104, 76ers 97
Toronto ended a franchise-worst 17-game losing streak as Walt Williams scored 39 points.

Warriors 93, Lakers 92
Joe Smith had eight of his 27 points in the fourth quarter as Golden State, winning its second straight at home since Latrell Sprewell's firing, defeated Los Angeles.

20 assists and David Robinson scored 30 points to lead host San Antonio to victory.

The Spurs, who never trailed, broke a three-game losing streak.

Trail Blazers 93, Pacers 85
The Trail Blazers blew a 14-point halftime lead, then rallied in the fourth quarter behind Rasheed Wallace for its third straight victory.

The Pacers concluded a five-game road trip by losing their second in a row after winning six straight.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Heat	14	5	.737	
Orlando	15	7	.682	1/2
New Jersey	11	9	.550	3 1/2
New York	11	9	.550	3 1/2
Washington	9	12	.429	6
Boston	8	11	.421	6
Philadelphia	5	13	.278	8 1/2

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	15	4	.789	
Charlotte	12	6	.672	2
Chicago	12	6	.672	2
Indiana	11	8	.579	4
MIwaukee	11	8	.579	4
Detroit	9	12	.429	7
Toronto	2	19	.095	14

Midwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Rosette	12	5	.706	
Utah	11	8	.580	1/2
San Antonio	10	11	.524	3
Minnesota	9	11	.452	5
Denver	7	14	.333	7
Dallas	5	14	.263	8
Denver	2	17	.105	11

Pacific Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	16	5	.762	
LA Lakers	15	5	.750	1/2
Phoenix	12	8	.600	3
Portland	13	6	.684	2
Sacramento	11	8	.579	4
LA Clippers	4	12	.250	8
Golden State	3	15	.167	10 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

National Conference

American Conference

Quarterbacks

Running backs

Wide receivers

Tight ends

Defensive players

Devils top Oilers with backup goalie Dunham

EAST RUTHERFORD (AP)—Backup goaltender Mike Dunham made 27 saves and gave New Jersey a rare win without Martin Brodeur in leading the Devils to a 4-2 victory over the Edmonton Oilers on Wednesday night.

Flames 4, Rangers 1
In New York, Rick Tabaracci made 30 saves to pace the Calgary Flames over the struggling New York Rangers.

Canadians 4, Blues 3 (OT)
Vincent Damphousse scored 55 seconds into overtime to cap host Montreal's comeback from a three-goal deficit.

Avalanche 2, Leafs 2
Patrick Roy made 51 saves, including four during a five-second span midway through the third period of Colorado's away tie.

Stars 3, Lightning 0
Ed Belfour had to stop only 12 shots for his franchise-record seventh shutout and Sergei Zubov had a goal and an assist as Dallas extended its home winning streak to seven games.

Coyotes 3, Blackhawks 3
Keith Tkachuk scored a power-play goal with 7:23 left in regulation as visiting Phoenix tied.

Penguins 3, Mighty Ducks 0
Tom Barasso earned his fourth shutout in his last five road games and Jaromir Jagr scored twice in the first period as Pittsburgh won on the road.

Capitals 3, Sharks 3
Peter Bondra's power-play goal with 29 seconds left in the third period gave visiting Washington a tie.

San Jose's Marco Sturm had scored from the right circle with 2:35 left in regulation to give the Sharks a 3-2 lead.

Joe Juneau had tied the game 2-2 at 6:32 of the third period on a shot from eight feet out.

Florida 0, Panthers 0
First Period—None. Second Period—None. Third Period—None. Shots on goal—Florida 8, Panthers 3.

Washington 2, Canucks 2
Chris Chelios scored twice in the first period as Seattle won on the road.

Colorado 2, Rangers 0
Peter Bondra's power-play goal with 29 seconds left in the third period gave visiting Washington a tie.

Florida 0, Panthers 0
First Period—None. Second Period—None. Third Period—None. Shots on goal—Florida 8, Panthers 3.

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NFL Individual Leaders

Quarterbacks	NATIONAL CONFERENCE				AMERICAN CONFERENCE				
	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Att	Com	Yds	TD	
S. Young, SEA	310	212	2666	18	E. Manning, DEN	435	277	3202	23
Chandler, NYJ	302	177	2206	17	B. St. Burris, PIT	405	255	3232	22
Favre, G.M.	461	274	3455	30	R. Brunel, JAX	376	222	2321	16
Dillon, DEN	353	205	2423	20	G. McCort, NYJ	453	246	3379	25
Johnson, MIN	452	275	3634	20	H. Harmon, NYJ	480	278	3434	18
Chaney, BAL	449	265	3100	19	C. Clark, KC	300	174	1871	4
Wichard, DEN	443	235	2717	13	M. St. Lewis, PIT	393	237	3446	21
Plummer, ARI	220	121	1786	12	Stewart, PIT	374	204	2627	14
Kramer, CHI	454	279	3713	12	H. Harbaugh, IND	254	154	1638	5
T. Brown, PHI	244	134	1567	7					

WINNING CARDS
in yesterday's Lital Hadavim daily chance drawing

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WEATHER

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Cond.
Amsterdam	45	51	10 50
Berlin	37	48	10 50
Bombay	66	73	10 50
Buenos Aires	60	66	26 62
Calcutta	19	23	10 50
Chengde	01	34	36 38
Copenhagen	06	43	67 45
Dublin	03	10	11 82
Geneva	34	39	11 82
Hankow	05	14	67 68
Hong Kong	13	25	17 63
London	13	20	14 67
Los Angeles	09	48	10 50
Madras	15	23	10 50
Manila	18	24	10 50
Montreal	01	14	10 50
Osaka	01	14	10 50
Nice	08	18	11 81
Paris	09	16	11 81
Prague	02	36	03 46
Rio de Janeiro	84	88	14 57
Rosario	04	20	17 67
Santiago	17	23	34 75
Sydney	05	20	14 66
Tokyo	05	20	14 66
Vienna	05	20	14 66
Washington	05	41	17 65
Zurich	05	41	17 65

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We wish to announce that the Christian Communities department has moved to
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Our telephone numbers:
02-623-6626, 02-623-6631, 02-623-6637
Fax: 02-623-6591

Reception hours:
Sunday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport
Information Center

Competition for the design of a poster for Israel's Fiftieth Anniversary

JUBILEE POSTER

The Information Center announces a competition for the design of a poster marking Israel's Fiftieth Independence Day.

The poster should express the joy of the State's Jubilee celebrations

A professional committee will select ten submissions from which the public will be asked to choose the winning poster.

First prize: NIS 10,000
Second prize: NIS 7,000
Third prize: NIS 3,500

Participation in the competition will be in accordance with the regulations which can be obtained from the following Information Center offices:

Jerusalem - 14 Rehov Hillel, 91072. Tel. 02-624-2248/9
Tel Aviv: 2 Rehov Kaplan, 84734, Tel. 03-691-6040.
Haifa: Migdal Hanavim, 2 Rehov Kore, 33045. Tel. 04-862-2361/2
Beersheba: Beth Noam, 21 Shederot Shazar, 84894. Tel. 07-623-3906.
Nazareth: Uwad Afif Building, POB 1521, 16101. Tel. 06-655-5210.

Last date of submission: noon, January 29, 1998.

The Independence Day Poster will be produced by the Information Center and distributed in Israel and abroad.

100 Days at a special price

Martinez, Bosox on verge of \$75m deal

NEW YORK (AP)— Pedro Martinez has shattered Major League Baseball's salary scale, saying he had agreed to a record \$75 million, six-year contract with the Boston Red Sox.

The deal, which has yet to be formally announced, would break records for largest contract, Gary Sheffield's \$61m, 6-year deal with Florida, and highest average annual salary, the \$11.5m Greg Maddux will get during his 5-year contract with Atlanta.

1997 The Jerusalem Post

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THE JERUSALEM POST
Israel - from every point of view

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WEATHER

GAMES EXTENDED

100 Days at a special price

Turks send Maccabi TA reeling

Hapoel Jerusalem remain in EuroLeague cellar

By BRIAN FREEMAN

Efes Pilsen became the first Turkish team ever to win at Yad Eliahu, sending Maccabi Tel Aviv to a 70-61 defeat last night in EuroLeague action.

The loss, which drops Maccabi's record to 4-5, means that it must defeat defending European champions Olympiakos in Greece and hope for an Efes victory over CSKA Moscow next week in order to finish third in Group A and earn the right to play the three weakest clubs in Group B in the league's next stage.

Maccabi still advances to the next stage if it fails to finish in the top three, but it then must play the top three teams in Group B in order to advance to the Final 16.

The game was much closer than the score indicated, as neither team held more than a five-point advantage for all but the last 30 seconds. Superstar Petar Naumaski upheld his reputation as a thorn in Maccabi's side. He was held to only five points in the game's first 27 minutes, at which point Maccabi held its largest advantage of the game, 45-41.

But then he exploded for 14 points in the final 13 minutes, including his first two three-pointers of the game, to lead a charge which sent the capacity crowd home wondering what happened.

One obvious factor was the sub-par play of Oded Katash, who suffered from the flu during the week. Katash, who came into the contest as the leading scorer in EuroLeague play with a 23.6 average, scored only four points on the night on 1-10 shooting.

To make matters worse, he also turned the ball over several times at crucial junctures and had three 3-point attempts blocked, one of which turned into a fast-break basket for Naumaski and sparked the Turks on a 11-4 run to open up a 57-52 advantage with only 5:45 remaining in the game.

Maccabi, in fact, recovered at that point to cut the margin and was behind only 63-61 as late as 90 seconds remaining, but the Turkish defense, one of the best in

Europe, kept the Israelis off the scoreboard for the rest of the game.

Maccabi entered the game as the fifth best three-point shooting team (out of 24 teams) at 39.8%, but finished the night only 3-11 (27%).

Tel Aviv also brought into the contest the best free-throw shooting percentage in the EuroLeague, but in the last 10 minutes of the game both Rashard Griffith and Randy White missed two free throws which could have turned the tide.

And in the first half an inexcusable foul by Constantin Popa at the buzzer cost Maccabi two crucial points.

For Maccabi, Griffith had 17 points, Doron Sheffer 13, Nadav Henefeld 9, Randy White 8, Derrick Sharp 6, and Katash and Popa 4 each.

For Efes, Naumaski and Howard both had 19, Mirsad Turkcan had 13, Murat Evliyayoglu 11 (double his EuroLeague average), Tamar Oyugcu 6 and Rod Sellers 2.

Meanwhile, Hapoel Jerusalem lost a chance to get out of the Group C cellar by losing to Pau-Orthez 79-67 before a packed house at Malha.

Doron Shefa paced Hapoel with 21 points, while Kenny Williams and Motti Daniel each had 13.

For Pau, Mustafa Sonko led the way with 15, while Thierry Gadou had 14.

Group A

In Moscow: CSKA Moscow 83, Limoges 70.

In Athens: Olympiakos Piraeus 82, Real Madrid 75.

Group C

In Belgrade: Partizan Belgrade 49, Kinder Bologna 74.

	W	L	Pts.
Olympiakos	7	2	16
Efes Pilsen	5	4	14
CSKA Moscow	5	4	13
Maccabi Tel Aviv	4	5	13
Limoges	3	6	12
Real Madrid	3	6	12
Kinder Bologna	3	5	11
Barcelona	3	5	11
Partizan Belgrade	4	5	11
Pau-Orthez	4	5	11
Ulmer	3	5	11
Hapoel Jerusalem	2	7	11



LOOKING FOR DAYLIGHT - Thierry Gadou of Pau Orthez looks for an opening as he is guarded by Hapoel Jerusalem's Kenny Williams during first-half action. The French side won, 79-67, leaving the capital hoopsters at the bottom of the standings.

Inside

Magic break Bulls' jinx Page 23

Sports Editors Joe Natanson & Ori Livneh

Betar take on Beit She'an amidst Toto fever

By DEREK FATTAL

A bumper Toto cash prize over NIS 12 million is up for grabs this weekend with round 14. Toto booths across the country have reported a huge increase in business over the last few days with punters vying to get their hands on the biggest windfall this season.

Betar Jerusalem are once again enjoying life at the top of the National League. Last Saturday's narrow 1-0 away victory over Bnei Yehuda Tel Aviv put the Jerusalemites back in first place overtaking former leaders Hapoel Tel Aviv who were held to a draw at Bloomfield by Hapoel Beersheba.

Hapoel Tel Aviv are away to Hapoel Petah Tikva and both sides need a win to avoid slipping away from Betar. The match will be screened live on Channel Two.

Hapoel Ashkelon's new coach Roni Dura could be coaching from the stands later this afternoon. Menashe Nuriel, the man he replaced has declined to accept his agreed compensation in the form of post-dated checks, and the club's currently-approved budget does not extend to paying an additional coaching salary.

This weekend's National League fixtures: Today: Hapoel Kfar Sava v. Ironi Ashdod, 14:00; Hapoel Ashkelon v. Maccabi Herzliya 14:00. Tomorrow: Maccabi Tel Aviv v. Maccabi Petah Tikva, National Stadium Ramat Gan, 15:30; Betar Jerusalem v. Hapoel Beit Shean, Teddy Stadium, 15:00; Hapoel Haifa v. Bnei Yehuda, Kiryat Eliezer, 15:00; Ironi Rishon LeZion v. Maccabi Haifa, 14:30; Hapoel Beersheba v. Hapoel Jerusalem, 14:30; Hapoel Petah Tikva v. Hapoel Tel Aviv, 17:15.

National League						
CP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Betar Jerusalem	13	7	4	0	30	14
Hapoel Tel Aviv	13	7	5	1	13	6
Hapoel Haifa	13	7	4	2	24	14
Hapoel Petah Tikva	13	7	3	3	22	14
Maccabi Haifa	13	6	3	4	23	16
Ironi Ashdod	13	5	6	2	18	15
Hapoel Jerusalem	13	5	5	3	17	17
Hapoel Kfar Sava	13	6	1	6	16	17
Maccabi Herzliya	13	4	4	5	19	16
Ironi Rishon LeZion	13	3	5	5	16	14
Maccabi Tel Aviv	13	3	4	6	14	13
Hapoel Beersheba	13	2	7	4	13	13
Bnei Yehuda	13	3	5	4	12	11
Hapoel Ashkelon	13	2	8	13	23	11
Hapoel Beit Shean	13	2	4	7	10	10
Hapoel Beersheba	13	1	4	8	14	7

SCOREBOARD

UEFA Cup: Vfl Bochum 2, Ajax Amsterdam 2. Ajax advances to quarter-finals on 6-4 aggregate.
England-India: In the opening match of the Champions' Trophy tournament yesterday at Sharjah, UAE. Scores: England 250 all out in 49.5 overs, India 243 all out in 49.3 overs.
South Africa-New Zealand: In their World Series limited overs international yesterday in Hobart. Scores: SA 174 for nine, NZ 173 for seven in 50 overs.

Last respects paid to Billy Bremner

DONCASTER (AP) — Fans, teammates and coaches paid their last respects yesterday to Billy Bremner, the former Leeds and Scotland star who died Sunday at the age of 54. Hundreds of fans, many in tears, stood outside St. Mary's Church in silence to listen to the funeral mass for Bremner. "I knew him for a long time," said Manchester United manager and fellow Scot Alex Ferguson. "He still had the same great enthusiasm for Leeds. He was a great player for Leeds United and Scotland." The mourners also included former Leeds' teammates Johnny Giles, Norman Hunter, Peter Lorimer and Eddie Gray.

Nebraska: Coach Osborne retires, defensive end Wistrom wins Lombardi award

LINCOLN, Nebraska (AP) — Tom Osborne retired as football coach at Nebraska on Wednesday, ending an era at the school in which he became one of US college football's most successful coaches and the Cornhuskers led the sport. He will coach the No. 2 Cornhuskers against No. 3 Tennessee in the Orange Bowl on January 2 and said he may stay on until February if he can help the team. "I think it's wise to back off before you leave feet first or somebody tells me it's time to go," Osborne said. Longtime assistant Frank Solich, the running backs coach,

will succeed Osborne, pending approval from the university Board of Regents. Osborne said his health played a role in his decision. The 60-year-old coach had heart bypass surgery 13 years ago and was diagnosed with an irregular heart beat this year. Osborne weathered criticism in recent years over his decisions to allow players facing criminal charges to stay on the field. He came under sharp criticism in 1995 for his decision to reinstate star tailback Lawrence Phillips to the team even after Phillips pleaded no contest to charges of assaulting a former girlfriend. For a quarter-century, Osborne

and Nebraska have been perennial powers, winning consecutive national titles in 1994 and 1995 while compiling a 254-49-3 mark with 24 straight bowl appearances. The Cornhuskers (12-0) may have a shot at a third national title in four years - if they win the Orange Bowl and top-ranked Michigan loses to Washington State in the Rose Bowl. Osborne retires as the sixth winningest coach in Division I-A history, behind Bear Bryant, Pop Warner, Amos Alonzo Stagg, Joe Paterno and Bobby Bowden. Osborne leaves at the top. The Cornhuskers are 59-3 over the past five years with five straight 11-win seasons, an NCAA best.

He said the difficult part about retiring was telling his players. "I care very much about those guys so that's what's been most difficult," he said. "I hope at some point they will realize that I'm trying to do what's the best thing for them." Wistrom wins Lombardi award. Just hours after learning that his coach was retiring, Nebraska defensive end Grant Wistrom got

good news that he had won the Lombardi Award as the nation's top collegiate lineman. Wistrom, a 6-foot-5 (1.96m), 250-pound (112kg) senior, was a main cog in the defense that helped the Cornhuskers take a 12-0 record into Osborne's final game as coach. Wistrom credited Osborne for his success. "The man meant the world to me the last four years," Wistrom said. "He praised me when I needed praise and he scolded me when I needed scolding. He's been a father to me away from my own father. Next to my father, I respect him the most."

United 5-2 EuroCup favorites

LONDON (Reuters) — Manchester United were quoted as 5-2 favorites to win the European Cup following the last round of group matches in the Champions' League on Wednesday. William Hill bookmakers gave the odds for the eight teams in the quarter-finals as follows: 5-2 Manchester United, 11-4 Juventus, 5-1 Real Madrid, 6-1 Bayern Munich, 9-1 Borussia Dortmund, 12-1 Dynamo Kiev, 14-1 Monaco, 16-1 Bayer Leverkusen.

4 Israeli rackets reach quarter-finals

Four Israelis have reached today's quarter-finals of the \$50,000 Club Hotel Eilat Tennis Challenger. Top local player and eighth seed Eyal Erlich, Eyal Ran, Noam Behr and Amir Hadad all succeeded yesterday while only two seeded foreign players survived to the final eight. They are first- and second-seeds Dominik Hrbaty from Slovakia and Dinu Pescariu from Romania. Erlich will meet Hrbaty, Ran will take on Neville Godwin from South Africa, and Behr and Hadad will face each other in today's matches. The last quarter-final will pit Pescariu against Finn Thomas Ketola. Heather Chait

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